



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive - Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-4005

No. IV-04-041
Contact: Victor Dricks
Phone: 817-860-8128

October 4, 2004
E-Mail: opa4@nrc.gov

NRC STAFF SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT REPORT THAT FINDS ANO -2 LICENSE RENEWAL ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reached the preliminary conclusion that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude the renewal of the operating license for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2), in Russellville, Ark.

The information is contained in a draft environmental impact statement on the proposed license renewal. The statement is open for public comment until November 24, and will also be the subject of a public meeting October 21, in Russellville.

The NRC has been reviewing the application for renewal of the ANO-2 operating license since Entergy Operations, Inc., which operates the plant, filed it in October 2003. Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for ANO-2 will expire July 17, 2018.

The possible environmental effects of an additional 20 years of nuclear plant operation are described in the NRC's Generic Environmental Impact Statement, or GEIS (NUREG-1437). The NRC issues a site-specific supplement to the GEIS on each plant requesting license renewal to address the potential environmental impacts. Issues specific to ANO-2 are addressed in Supplement 19, which will be issued in draft form in September. The NRC staff's preliminary recommendation is that the Commission determined that the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for ANO-2 are not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy-planning decision makers would be unreasonable.

On Thursday, October 21, the NRC staff will hold a public meeting to obtain comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn, 2407 N. Arkansas Avenue in Russellville, from 7 to 10 p.m. The NRC staff will host a informal

discussion at 6 p.m. NRC staff will be available to answer questions and provide additional information about the license renewal process during the informal session, but no comments or written statements on the draft supplement will be accepted at that time. The meeting will include a discussion by the NRC staff and its contractors on the contents of the draft supplement to the GEIS.

For planning purposes, interested parties are encouraged to pre-register by contacting Thomas Kenyon at 1-800- 368-5642, extension 1120, or by e-mail at ANOEIS@nrc.gov no later than October 15. Interested parties may also register to speak before the start of the meeting. Time for comments may be limited to accommodate all speakers.

Written comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS will also be considered by the NRC staff. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6 D 59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail to ANOEIS@nrc.gov.

The draft supplement to the GEIS, along with other related documents, is available for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room at NRC headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md.; or electronically on the Internet at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/supplement19/ or the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html. Assistance in using the electronic reading room is available by calling the NRC Public Document Room at (301) 415-4737. In addition, the Ross Pendergraft Library at Arkansas Tech University, 305 West Q Street, Russellville, Ark., has agreed to make the draft supplement to the GEIS available for public inspection.

At the conclusion of the public comment period on November 24 the NRC staff will consider and address the comments provided and issue a final supplement to the GEIS. That supplement will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the proposed license renewal.

###