



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC ANNOUNCES HEARING OPPORTUNITY AND INTENT TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT ON HARRIS NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing the opportunity to request a hearing on a license renewal application for the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant in North Carolina. The agency will also hold a public meeting near the plant to discuss the license renewal process and the scope of its review of the environmental impacts of the proposed renewal.

Carolina Power & Light Co., doing business as Progress Energy Carolinas Inc., submitted the license renewal application for Shearon Harris Nov. 16. The application was formally docketed Jan. 12, but because the NRC was operating under a continuing resolution that held federal spending at the Fiscal Year 2006 level, the staff's technical and environmental reviews were delayed. Now that the NRC has received its requested funding for FY 2007, those reviews will proceed.

The Harris nuclear plant is located in Wake County, N.C., about 20 miles south of Raleigh. Its current operating license expires Oct. 24, 2026. Renewal would extend that license for an additional 20 years.

NRC staff will conduct a public meeting April 18 in the vicinity of the plant to explain the license renewal review process and to seek public input on issues to be considered in the agency's Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed renewal. Details of that meeting will be announced separately closer to the date.

A notice of opportunity to request a hearing was published March 20 in the *Federal Register*. The deadline for requesting a hearing is May 21. Petitions may be filed by anyone whose interest may be affected by the license renewal and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding.

A request for hearing and a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff. Requests may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 415-1101 or e-mail to HEARINGDOCKET@nrc.gov. A copy should also be submitted to the NRC Office of the General Counsel, by facsimile to (301) 415-3725 or e-mail to OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov.

Information on the NRC's hearings process is available at this Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing.html>. Information on the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, which will consider hearing requests and conduct any adjudication, is available here: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/aslbpfundesc.html>.

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