



NRC NEWS

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NRC OFFERS PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVENE IN GE-HITACHI URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is offering the public an opportunity to intervene in the agency review of an application by GE-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment, LLC, for a license to construct and operate a uranium enrichment plant using laser technology near Wilmington, N.C.

In an Order approved Jan. 7 and published Jan. 13 in the *Federal Register*, the Commission also set a 30-month schedule for the staff's license review and adjudicatory proceedings of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Anyone wishing to become a party to the hearing on the Global Laser Enrichment application must demonstrate standing by explaining how they might be affected by the proposed facility, and must present admissible contentions regarding specific aspects of the application. Guidelines for filing petitions to intervene are spelled out in the Commission's Order. The deadline for filing petitions is March 15.

GE-Hitachi submitted its environmental review for the application on Jan. 30, 2009, and submitted the remainder of the application June 30. On April 9, the NRC published its notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed facility and the opportunity for public comment on the environmental factors to be considered in that study. The NRC formally docketed the application Aug. 6.

The plant would enrich uranium in the fissionable isotope U-235, for use in manufacturing nuclear fuel for nuclear power plants.

The Commission Order is available on the NRC Web site at the following address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/orders/2010/2010-04cli.pdf>. Information on the GE-Hitachi application is available at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/laser.html>.

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