



NRC NEWS

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NRC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT FOR PROPOSED URANIUM PLANT IN N.C.; MEETINGS JULY 22

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a laser-based uranium enrichment plant proposed to be built in Wilmington, N.C., by General Electric-Hitachi (GEH).

The draft EIS analyzes potential impacts of construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed facility. It includes the NRC staff's preliminary conclusion that the plant, to be called the Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) Uranium Enrichment Facility, would have small to moderate impacts on the local environment, primarily during construction. The staff recommends that, unless safety issues mandate otherwise, GEH should be issued a license to construct and operate the facility.

NRC staff will hold two public meetings in Wilmington on July 22 to discuss the report and receive public comments. The meetings will be held from 2:30 – 5 p.m. and 7:30 – 10 p.m. at the Warwick Center, Ballroom 5, at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. NRC staff members will host informal open house sessions an hour in advance of each of the meetings.

GEH submitted its environmental report for the facility on January 30, 2009, and a complete license application on June 26, 2009. GEH proposes to use laser-based technology to enrich uranium in the U-235 isotope to concentrations up to 8 percent by weight. The enriched uranium would be used in manufacturing reactor fuel for commercial nuclear power plants.

The Draft EIS for the proposed GLE facility is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1938>. Copies will also be available at the New Hanover County Library, 201 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, N.C., 28401.

Comments may be submitted by e-mail to GLE.EIS@nrc.gov, or over the federal government's rulemaking Web site at <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching for Docket ID NRC-2010-0157. Comments will be accepted through Aug. 9.

The application and more information about the proposed facility are available at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/laser.html>.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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