



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO SEEK INPUT ON NOV. 17th ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS FOR SALEM, HOPE CREEK NUCLEAR PLANT RELICENSING APPLICATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will take public comments Nov. 17 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statements prepared as part of the license renewal applications for the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants. The reports preliminarily conclude there are no environmental impacts that would preclude a 20-year extension of the operating licenses for the plants, operated by PSEG and co-located in Hancocks Bridge (Salem County), N.J.

At a 1:30 p.m. meeting and subsequent 7 p.m. session at the Salem County Emergency Services Building, at 135 Cemetery Road in Woodstown, N.J., the staff will present the results of the reviews to date and take comments from the public. Each session will include a one-hour NRC "open house" just prior to the meeting starting time to allow interested members of the public a chance to talk informally with agency experts about the reports and/or the review process. Formal comments must be made during the transcribed public meetings.

"A significant amount of NRC time and effort has been devoted to the compilation of these reports," said Brian Holian, Director of the NRC's Division of License Renewal. "We now look forward to giving the public a chance to weigh in on our assessments as we continue with our comprehensive review of the Salem and Hope Creek applications."

Based on its review, the NRC staff's Draft Environmental Impact Statements for the Salem and Hope Creek plants preliminarily recommend that the Commission determine the adverse environmental impacts of license renewal for the facilities are "not so great that preserving the option of license renewal for energy planning decision-makers would be unreasonable." These recommendations are based on five factors: 1) the analysis and findings in the NRC Generic Environmental Impact Statement used for license renewal reviews; 2) the plant-specific environmental reports submitted by PSEG; 3) NRC consultation with other federal, state and local agencies; 4) the NRC staff's own independent review; and 5) the NRC staff's consideration of public comments received during the environmental scoping process.

Copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Statements are available on the NRC's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html>. The reports will also be available at the Salem Free Library, at 112 W. Broadway in Salem, N.J.

PSEG is seeking license extensions for Salem Units 1 and 2, which are pressurized-water reactors, and Hope Creek, which is a boiling-water reactor. The company submitted the applications on Aug. 18, 2009.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant has a term of 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years, provided that NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for the plants are set to expire as follows: Salem 1 – Aug. 13, 2016; Salem 2 – April 18, 2020; and Hope Creek – April 11, 2026.

Individuals may pre-register to provide oral comments at the meetings by contacting Leslie Perkins, the Project Manager for the NRC environmental review, at 1-800-368-5642, ext. 2375, or by e-mail at Leslie.Perkins@NRC.GOV. They may also register in person at the meetings within 15 minutes of the start of each session. The duration of individual comments may be limited by the number of speakers who register.

Additional information on the license renewal review process is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

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