



NRC NEWS

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NRC SETS REVIEW SCHEDULE ON REVISED APPLICATION FOR NORTH ANNA EARLY SITE PERMIT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reviewing the supplemented, revised application for an Early Site Permit (ESP) from Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC (Dominion), concerning the North Anna nuclear power plant site, near Mineral, Va.

Dominion submitted its initial application on Sept. 25, 2003, and submitted a revised application on Jan. 13, 2006, which was supplemented on April 13. The revision reflects changes to the reactor design and the cooling water system referenced in the application. The supplement addresses several aspects of the changes, including the new cooling tower system's impact on both humans and wildlife downstream from the site.

"With this additional information, we can now move forward in reviewing Dominion's proposal," said William Beckner, Deputy Director of the Division of New Reactor Licensing in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. "The staff expects to finish its technical work on the application by the end of this year."

The NRC staff's projected schedule includes issuing a supplement to its draft environmental impact statement (EIS) in late July, with a public meeting near the plant to discuss the supplement in August. The EIS is expected to be finalized by the end of this year. The staff expects to supplement its safety evaluation report in August, with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviewing the supplement late in the year. The updated review schedule is available on the NRC's Web site at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp/north-anna.html#schedule> .

The ESP process allows an applicant to address site-related issues, such as environmental impacts, for possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at the site. If a permit is granted, the applicant has up to 20 years to decide whether to build a new nuclear unit on the site and to file an application with the NRC for approval to begin construction. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board must conclude a hearing, expected to last approximately a year, on the North Anna ESP application before the agency's final decision.

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