



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING MARCH 14 ON POSSIBLE COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with Duke Power and interested stakeholders on March 14 in Rockville, Md., to discuss Duke's possible application for a Combined License (COL) to build a nuclear power plant.

The NRC amended its licensing regulations in 1989, creating the COL to provide an alternative to the existing process. When the nation's current 104 licensed reactors were built, an applicant had to first obtain a construction permit. Following completion of construction and testing, the applicant then had to obtain an operating license before a plant could start up. A Combined License authorizes both construction and conditional operation of a nuclear power plant. The COL process incorporates inspections, tests, analyses and acceptance criteria into the construction phase to provide information necessary to demonstrate that the reactor could operate safely once construction is complete.

The meeting will be held in the Commission Conference Room (O-1F16) of the NRC's One White Flint North Building, 11555 Rockville Pike, from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The meeting will include discussion of possible COL application strategies and review schedules, as well as how the agency and Duke would interact during the pre-application stage. The meeting agenda is available on the NRC's web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/agenda/2005-0120.pdf>.

Members of the public are invited to observe the meeting and discuss the possible COL application with NRC staff after the business portion of the meeting, but before the meeting adjourns. For more information on the meeting, contact Amy Cabbage at 301-415-2875 or via email at aec@nrc.gov. Parties interested in participating in the meeting via teleconference must contact Ms. Cabbage by the close of business on March 11.

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