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NRC ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR OYSTER CREEK

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced today that an application for a 20-year renewal of the operating license for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Station is available for public review.

The Oyster Creek plant is located approximately nine miles south of Toms River, N.J., and its current operating license expires on April 9, 2009.

The licensee, AmerGen Energy Co. LLC, submitted the renewal application July 22. It is available on the NRC Web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html> .

The NRC staff is currently conducting an initial review of the application to determine whether it contains enough information for the required formal review. If the application has sufficient information, the NRC will formally “docket,” or file, the application and will announce an opportunity to request a public hearing.

In December 2004, the NRC granted AmerGen an exemption allowing it to retain the protection of the “timely renewal” provision of NRC regulations. This provision stipulates that if a nuclear power plant licensee applies for license renewal at least five years before its current operating license expires, the existing license will not expire while the NRC decides whether to grant the requested renewal. AmerGen missed that time frame, but the NRC staff decided the exemption was warranted because there would still be ample time to complete the review before the plant’s license expires, provided a sufficient application was submitted by July 2005.

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