



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 18, 2014

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting Summary

Title: Public Meeting to Discuss the License Renewal Process and Environmental Scoping Process for Fermi, Unit 2

Meeting Identifier: 20141217

Date of Meeting: Thursday, July 24, 2014

Location: Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Monroe, MI

Type of Meeting: Category 3

Purpose of the Meeting(s):

To provide an overview of the license renewal and environmental scoping processes for Fermi, Unit 2 (Fermi 2), and to provide an opportunity for members of the public to provide comments regarding environmental issues around the Fermi 2 site that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should consider during its review of the license renewal application.

General Details:

The NRC held two identical meetings to accommodate interested persons, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. Both meetings were preceded by an informal open house beginning one hour prior to meeting where members of the public met with NRC staff and asked questions related to license renewal and environmental scoping. The afternoon meeting was scheduled from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST. The evening meeting was scheduled from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. EST. Twelve NRC staff members were present. The meetings were facilitated by Mr. Richard Barkley, an NRC in-house facilitator. The meetings began with an introduction of NRC staff and a review of meeting ground rules, followed by a short presentation on the license renewal and environmental scoping processes by Ms. Daneira Melendez-Colon and Ms. Leslie Perkins. Their presentation focused on the many ways the public can participate in these processes. The majority of the meeting was dedicated to receiving comments from members of the public for Fermi 2.

Approximately 60 people participated in the afternoon meeting, and 50 people participated in the evening meeting. Thirty-five meeting participants in the afternoon and 22 meeting participants in the evening provided comments. In addition to members of the public, meeting participants included a staff member from Congressman Walberg's office, State and local officials and the licensee.

Summary of Presentations:

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 authorizes the NRC to grant licenses for commercial power reactors to operate for up to 40 years and allows these licenses to be renewed for up to another 20 years. The 40 year term was based primarily on economic considerations and antitrust factors, not on safety and technical limitations. The NRC has established a license renewal process that has two separate, but parallel review tracks; a safety review and an environmental review.

The focus of the safety review stems from the NRC's obligation under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and is performed under the regulations of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plant." The purpose of this review is to make sure and verify that each applicant has fully analyzed the management of aging effects in sufficient detail to conclude that the plant can be operated safely during the period of extended operation. The NRC's safety review is documented in the final safety evaluation report.

Under the NRC's environmental protection regulations in 10 CFR Part 51—which implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)—issuance of a new nuclear power plant operating license requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The NRC performs plant-specific reviews of environmental impacts of operating life extension in accordance with NEPA and the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions." As part of the environmental review, the staff consults with local, State, Federal, and Tribal officials.

The environmental review begins with a scoping process, which is an assessment of specific impacts and significant issues that the staff should consider in preparing the Fermi 2 EIS. NRC recognizes that some impacts are similar, if not identical, at all nuclear power plants, so, to improve efficiency, the staff developed a generic environmental impact statement, NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," that addresses a number of impacts common to all nuclear power plants. The NRC staff supplements the generic EIS with a plant-specific EIS, in which all issues that are specific to Fermi 2 will be addressed. The staff also re-examines the conclusions reached in the generic EIS to determine if there is any new and significant information that would change those conclusions. NRC will ultimately make a recommendation on whether the environmental impacts are so great that they preclude maintaining the option of license renewal for energy-planning decisionmakers.

There are several opportunities for members of the public to participate in the license renewal review process. Additional public meetings will be held by the NRC during the review of the renewal application, and NRC evaluations, findings, and recommendations are published when completed.

A fact sheet on license renewal can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/fs-reactor-license-renewal.html>.

Public Participation Themes:

The majority of the comments provided during the meetings were in favor of renewing the Fermi 2 license. However, there were some comments provided during the meeting that raised concerns regarding safety, disposal and storage of nuclear waste, and consideration of alternatives to renewing the Fermi 2 license. A complete accounting of the comments provided can be found in the meeting transcripts which are available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) public electronic reading room under the accession numbers listed below, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Action Items/Next Steps:

- NRC staff will address the comments provided during this meeting as part of the license renewal process for Fermi 2. A record of how each comment was addressed will be included in the Scoping Summary Report and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS).
- A public meeting to discuss the DSEIS will be conducted near the plant in approximately 12 months.

Attachments:

- Meeting agenda – ML14233A450
- NRC staff presentation – ML14204A058
- Meeting transcripts – ML14254A465 and ML14254A470

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DISTRIBUTION: See next page

PKG: **ML14254A292**
MEMO: **ML14233A50**

*concurring via email

OFFICE	LA:RPB2:DLR	PM:RPB2:DLR	BC:RPB2:DLR
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