



NRC NEWS

Office of Public Affairs, Headquarters

Washington, DC. 20555-0001
www.nrc.gov ■ opa.resource@nrc.gov



No: 23-078
CONTACT: [Scott Burnell](#), 301-415-8200

December 12, 2023

NRC to Issue Construction Permit for Kairos Hermes Test Reactor in Tennessee

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has directed the staff to issue a construction permit to Kairos Power for the company's proposed Hermes non-power test reactor in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The permit authorizes Kairos to build a 35-megawatt thermal reactor that would use molten salt to cool the reactor core.

Following a mandatory hearing held on Oct. 19, the Commission [authorized](#) the agency's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation to issue the permit, having found the staff's review of the Kairos application adequate to make the necessary regulatory safety and environmental findings. The staff expects to issue the permit by the end of the month.

Kairos submitted its application to build the Hermes reactor in 2021. The test reactor, which will not generate electricity, is intended to provide operational data to support the development of a larger version for commercial power.

The NRC issued the [final environmental impact statement](#) for the site in August 2023 and the [final safety evaluation](#) for the permit in June 2023.

Kairos will have to submit a separate application for an operating license before it could operate the Hermes reactor.