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NRC ISSUES DRAFT PLAN FOR REVIEWING
FUTURE LICENSE APPLICATION FOR ENRICHMENT FACILITY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards has issued a draft report on how it plans to review a possible future license application for a facility employing laser technology to produce low-enriched uranium for commercial nuclear power plants.

The NRC anticipates that it could receive a license application for a facility using this technology from the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC), which currently operates the Portsmouth, Ohio, and Paducah, Kentucky, uranium enrichment facilities. These existing plants, which operate under certificates of compliance from the NRC, use a gaseous diffusion technology to perform enrichment. The anticipated new facility would use an Advanced Vapor Laser Isotope System (AVLIS).

The report, known as a "standard review plan," provides guidance for the evaluation of health, safety and environmental protection in a license application. Its principal purpose is to ensure quality and uniformity of staff reviews of the application and any later amendments to the license.

Copies of the "Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for the Atomic Vapor Laser Isotope (AVLIS) Facility -- Draft Report for Comment" (NUREG-1701) are available by written request to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Distribution Services, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or for review at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555-0001. A copy is also posted on the NRC's Internet web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NUREGS/indexnum.html>.

Interested persons are invited to submit comments within 90 days after publication of a Federal Register notice on this subject, which is expected shortly. Written comments should be directed to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Comments may also be submitted electronically by selecting the "comments" link on the above web site.

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