



NRC NEWS

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PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED ON IP2 LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold a pre-hearing conference on Tuesday, August 27 in Rye Brook, N.Y., in a proceeding involving an application to amend the license of the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant in Buchanan, N.Y.

Entergy Nuclear Indian Point 2, which operates the reactor, has requested a license amendment for a one-time five-year extension of the period within which to conduct the containment integrated leak rate test. It would normally be required every ten years.

Riverkeeper, Inc., submitted a petition to intervene on March 18, 2002. Because Riverkeeper did not meet the deadline (September 21, 2001) for filing a petition for leave to intervene, the Licensing Board will be considering whether there was good cause for the late filing, along with the other legal issues involved: Riverkeeper's legal standing to participate and the admissibility of its contentions.

The conference is open to public observation. It will be held at the Hilton Rye Town, 699 Westchester Ave., in Rye Brook. It is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Licensing Board consists of three administrative judges: a lawyer, Chairman, Michael C. Farrar, and two scientist members, Dr. Richard F. Cole and Dr. Charles N. Kelber.

The license amendment was granted by the NRC staff on August 5. NRC regulations allow the issuance of amendments that the staff believes involve no significant hazards considerations prior to the conduct, but subject to the outcome of, any associated hearings. Consistent with the agency's normal practices, the amendment was issued at the completion of the NRC staff's review of the licensee's amendment request. If the Board grants a hearing, and then decides in favor of the petitioners, the amendment could be revoked. In that event, the licensee would be required to perform the test within the time frame established pursuant to the decision.

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