



NRC NEWS

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NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING ON NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC., AMENDMENT REQUEST

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is offering the opportunity for a hearing on a license amendment request from Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) to authorize uranium processing operations at a Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Preparation Facility (BPF) within its existing facility located in Erwin, Tennessee. NFS currently manufactures high-enriched nuclear reactor fuel and is constructing a new complex at the Erwin site to manufacture low-enriched nuclear reactor fuel.

The October 11 application is the second of three license amendment requests that NFS plans to support the Blended Low-Enrichment Uranium (BLEU) project, which is part of a U.S. Department of Energy program to downblend and reduce stockpiles of surplus high-enriched uranium through re-use or disposal as radioactive waste. After the high-enriched material is downblended and converted to a low-enriched uranium solution, it will be transferred from the BPF to the new complex.

The first NFS application, which would authorize NFS to construct and operate a Low-Enriched Uranyl Nitrate Storage Building at the Erwin site, was filed February 28. A notice of opportunity for hearing on the first license amendment request was announced in Federal Register notices dated July 9, October 30, and November 12. An NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Judge is currently evaluating hearing applications.

The deadline for requesting a hearing on the second license amendment is 30 days from the date of publication of a Federal Register Notice on this subject, expected shortly. By that time, requests must be filed by anyone whose interest might be affected by the license amendment and who wishes to participate as a party to the proceeding. Requests for a hearing must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff. They may also be delivered to the NRC Public Document Room at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. A copy of hearing requests should also be sent to the Office of General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Because of continuing disruptions in the delivery of mail to the United States Government offices, it is requested that requests for hearing be transmitted to the Secretary of the Commission either by fax to 301-415-1101, or by e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov, and to the Office of General Counsel either by fax to 301-415-3725, or by e-mail to OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov. Copies of hearing requests should

also be sent to Nuclear Fuel Services, 1205 Banner Hill Road, Erwin, Tennessee 37650-9718 and to NFS attorney Daryl Shapiro, c/o Shaw Pittman, L.L.P., 2300 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Information that must be included in a hearing request is described in the Federal Register notice.

A copy of the license amendment application is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS). Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC Public Document Room staff at 301-415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209, or by sending a message to pdr@nrc.gov via e-mail. The documents are also available for inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room in Rockville, Maryland.

For further information, contact Mary T. Adams, Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T-8-A-33, Washington, D.C. 20555; telephone 301-415-7249.

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