



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region IV

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No. IV-04-005
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January 26, 2004
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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR PROPOSED ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 2 LICENSE RENEWAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff invites the public to provide its comments on Tuesday, February 3, regarding an application submitted by Entergy Operations to renew the operating license for the Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO), Unit 2, nuclear power plant near Russellville, Arkansas. Comments are invited on environmental issues the public believes the NRC should consider in its review of the application.

There will be two sessions held on February 3 at the Holiday Inn in Russellville. The first session is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. The second session is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. The NRC will host an open house beginning one hour before the start of each meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally with agency staff.

Both sessions will begin with identical overviews. The NRC staff will provide a presentation on the license renewal and environmental review processes, the proposed scope of the environmental review for the ANO Unit 2 application and the proposed time frame for the review. Interested government agencies, organizations and individuals will then have an opportunity to offer comments or suggestions on environmental issues they believe should be reviewed or on the proposed scope of the review.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant has a term of 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for ANO Unit-2 is due to expire on July 17, 2018. The Commission unanimously approved license extension for ANO Unit-1 on June 20, 2001, following a review of staff recommendations.

As part of its application, Entergy submitted an environmental report. That report is available for public review in the NRC Public Document Room at NRC headquarters, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. In addition, the Pendergraft Library,

located at Arkansas Tech University, 305 West Q Street, Russellville, AR 72801 has agreed to make the report available for public inspection. The application is also available on the NRC Web page at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/ano-2.html>.

An existing NRC document, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437), assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site. The NRC staff is gathering information at the meeting for a supplement to the generic environmental impact statement that will be specific to ANO Unit-2. It will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

At the conclusion of the information-gathering process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of conclusions and significant issues and will send a copy to interested persons who participated in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for public review at the Pendergraft Library, located at Arkansas Tech University, 305 West Q Street, Russellville, AR 72801 and will be accessible electronically through the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room found at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Assistance in using the electronic reading room is available by calling the NRC Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737.

The NRC staff will then prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) supplement for public comment and will hold a public meeting to solicit comments. After consideration of comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final EIS supplement.

Members of the public may also submit written comments on the ANO Unit-2-specific supplement to the generic environmental impact statement. Comments should be submitted by February 20, either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6-D-59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by e-mail to: ANOEIS@nrc.gov.

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