

November 23, 2005

APPLICANT: Progress Energy

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE NOVEMBER 1, 2005, CATEGORY 1 MEETING WITH
PROGRESS ENERGY TO DISCUSS PROGRESS ENERGY'S PLANS FOR
A COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

On November 1, 2005, a public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and representatives of Progress Energy, at the NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. The purpose of the meeting was for Progress Energy to share with NRC its future plans for a combined license (COL). A list of meeting attendees is included as Attachment 1, and the agenda is included as Attachment 2.. Attachments 3 and 4 contain the Progress Energy and NRC meeting handouts which can be accessed through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). This system provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. The handouts mentioned above may be accessed through the ADAMS system under Accession No. ML053200391. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the handouts located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737 or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. A summary of the meeting is included below.

Mr David Matthews, Director of the Division of New Reactor Licensing (DNRL), started the meeting by discussing that applicants did not need to communicate with both New Reactor Licensing and Operating Reactor Licensing on matters related to new reactors. He stated that DNRL would be the focal point of communications, and that communications was the key to efficiency of the process. He further stated that the NRC staff needed to receive complete and high quality applications in order to develop milestones for review and completion of our review. Mr. Matthews stated that to facilitate the NRC staff timely reviews, applicants should "give more" in responding to questions and requests for additional information. Lastly, he stated that schedules for reviewing a COL application have increased due to gaps and open items such as COL action items and plant parameter envelope issues which have occurred during the Part 52 processes.

Joe Donahue of Progress Energy started the Progress Energy presentation with their plans for a COL application. He discussed the need for additional electrical capacity in both the Carolinas and Florida by the year 2015. Progress Energy plans to submit 2 COL applications, one for a site in the Carolinas and the other for a site in Florida in late 2007. The applications will use the same reactor technology at both sites, and the applications will be for dual units at both sites. He discussed the fact that Progress Energy will work with other utilities who choose the same technology as they choose. They are considering the AP1000, the ESBWR, and the EPR reactor designs. The utility will be making their decision on the technology and site by the end of 2005. The sites under consideration are either existing sites or greenfield sites. The existing sites under consideration are Shearon Harris, Brunswick, Robinson, and Crystal River. The existing sites have well defined characterizations such as hydrology, seismology, and meteorology, and programs such as emergency planning and security. Gary Miller of Progress Energy stated that a greenfield site requires 2 years of meteorological data, but that Progress Energy may request that they submit their application with only 1 year, and collect the second

year while the application is being reviewed. He stated that Progress will determine the reactor technology and site by the end of 2005, and submit their application in late 2007. The NRC and Progress Energy will hold another public meeting to discuss the results of their decision and to announce the site and technology. Mr. Miller stated that Progress Energy anticipates limited work authorization (LWA) - 1 activities prior to the submission of their COL application, and LWA-2 type activities after COL issuance.

Progress Energy stated that they would be using Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI)-04-01, "Industry Guideline for Combined License Applicants Under 10 CFR Part 52," as the basis for preparing their COL application. They stated that they are using the same vendors as NuStart to help them select their site. Progress Energy stated that they will be preparing a high quality complete COL application. They will be working with other applicants so that there will be consistency with other COL applications using the same technology to improve efficiency. Progress Energy stated that in accordance with Manual Chapter 2502, "Construction Inspection Program: Pre-Combined License (Pre-COL) Phase," a lead plant would have to be identified so that first-of-a-kind engineering (FOAKE) could be performed on a standard plant. The COL applications for all sites using the same technology would be based on site differences, not design differences and that numerous chapters would be identical.

Progress Energy and the NRC staff discussed site preparations and a site redress plan related to a LWA, since there will not be an early site permit (ESP). The NRC staff stated that an LWA-1, is authorized under 10 CFR Part 50.10(e)(1) by the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), and that the revised Part 52 will provide clarity. The first step is for the licensee to submit an environmental report including a site redress plan and describe the site characteristics. The NRC staff would complete their safety evaluation report (SER) and environmental impact statement on the site. Only after the Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) had determined that the site was a suitable location would the Director of NRR authorize site activities to begin.

Progress Energy discussed the pre-application interactions with the NRC which will occur, which included a review of the quality assurance program, and an audit of the site characterization activities, such as borings. Progress Energy stated that they will give the NRC ample time to prepare and be present to witness all necessary activities that need to be inspected. They envision frequent interactions with the NRC staff to eliminate surprises to the staff and would request guidance on improving these interactions. The next meeting with Progress Energy is planned to occur after they had determined their site and technology.

The NRC staff provided Progress Energy with a presentation on the nominal review schedules for the review of a COL application (Attachment 4). The schedules were based on the base case for the review issued in SECY-01-0188, "Future Licensing and Inspection Readiness Assessment." Since the time the schedule estimates were determined, the number of COL action items has increased over what was initially envisioned, and ESPs introduced the concept of plant parameter envelopes. These two factors have caused the review schedule for a COL application to increase over the original plans. The NRC staff stated that applicants need to work with vendors to try to resolve some of these COL action items prior to the COL application. The NRC staff provided Progress Energy with pre-application interactions, such as site characterization inspections, public meetings and long-lead item inspections, that will be occurring.

The NRC staff discussed issues which should be considered when establishing pre-application activities. For an application which will be referencing a certified design, these issues included deviations from a certified design, resolution of design acceptance criteria, and addressing of COL action items. For all applications, these issues included exemptions from the regulations, policy issues, fabrication schedules for long lead time items, LWA, interactions with other Federal, state and local offices, and quality assurance.

Members of the public were in attendance. There was a question asked about closing out issues in an SER with open items. The NRC staff stated that a supplemental SER would be issued.

Please direct any inquires concerning this meeting to Steven Bloom at 301-415-1313, or sdb1@nrc.gov.

/RA/

Steven D. Bloom, Senior Project Manager
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Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 738

Attachments: 1. List of Attendees
 2. Agenda
 3. Progress Energy Handouts (ML053130336)
 4. NRC Handouts (ML053130403)

cc: See next page

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Meeting with Progress Energy on Planning Related to a Combined License Application

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

NRC Headquarters Conference Room O-12B4

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Agenda for Public Meeting with Progress Energy Regarding
Planning Related to Possible Combined License (COL) Application
November 1, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Room O12B4

9:00 a.m. - 9:05 a.m.	Introductory Remarks	NRC
9:05 a.m. - 9:35 a.m.	Current Status Site Selection Vendor Selection Selection of Contractor to work in Preparation of COLA Development of User Groups	Progress Energy
9:35 a.m. - 10:05 a.m.	Approach to Licensing Maximum Use of Standardization Schedule for future discussions How NRC is involved Multiple unit license Early Site Preparation with Remediation Plan Limited Work Authorization	Progress Energy
10:05 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.	Schedule Progress Energy NRC How do combine them to get to end when Progress would like to?	Progress Energy/NRC
10:35 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Questions and Answers Opportunity for Public Comments	Progress Energy/NRC
11:00 a.m.	Adjourn	