



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES CLARIFICATIONS TO NEW REACTOR LICENSING PROCESS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the issuance of revisions to its regulations dealing with licensing new nuclear power plants.

The revisions are contained in a final rule that applies to licensing processes such as Early Site Permits (ESP), Standard Design Certifications and Combined Licenses (COL). A proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* on March 13, 2006. The final rule will supersede revisions proposed in July 2003, and incorporates lessons learned during review of the first three ESP applications. The final rule will be published in the *Federal Register* later this year.

The NRC's changes to the proposed rule came in response to stakeholder comments or from further consideration by the staff. The final rule now clarifies how much additional review of environmental information is needed at the COL stage if an ESP is referenced. The final rule also includes additional criteria for allowing amendments to certified designs, as well as the addition of requirements for COL holders to provide information about how they will complete inspections, tests, analyses and other acceptance criteria if items are not done by the time a notice of intended operation is filed.

For more information on the rule, contact NRC staff members Nanette Gilles (telephone 301-415-1180, e-mail nvg@nrc.gov) or Jerry Wilson (telephone 301-415-3145, e-mail jnw@nrc.gov).

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