



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST HEARING ON LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PALO VERDE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today announced the opportunity to request a hearing on an application to renew the operating license for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station for an additional 20 years.

Palo Verde's three pressurized-water reactors are located about 55 miles west of Phoenix, Ariz. The plant owner, Arizona Public Service Co., submitted the renewal application Dec. 11, 2008 and supplemented the application on April 14. The current operating licenses for Palo Verde Units 1, 2 and 3 expire June 1, 2025; April 24, 2026; and Nov. 25, 2027, respectively.

The NRC staff has determined that the application contains sufficient information for the agency to formally "docket," or file, the application and begin its safety and environmental reviews. Docketing the application does not preclude requesting additional information as the reviews proceed, nor does it indicate whether the Commission will renew the license.

A notice of opportunity to request a hearing has been published in the *Federal Register* (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-11388.pdf>), and the deadline for requesting a hearing is July 15. Petitions may be filed by anyone whose interest may be affected by the license renewal and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding. A request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene must be filed through the NRC's E-Filing system. Anyone wishing to file should contact the Office of the Secretary by e-mail at HEARINGDOCKET@nrc.gov at least five days before the filing deadline to request a digital ID certificate and allow for the creation of an electronic docket. More information on the hearing process is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing.html>.

The Palo Verde renewal application is posted on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/palo-verde.html>. License renewal reviews typically take 22 months with no hearing, or 30 months if a hearing is granted.

Information about the license renewal process can be found on the NRC Web site at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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