

[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**Extension of Public Scoping Period for the Environmental Impact Statement for the
Proposed General Electric—Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment Facility**

[NRC-2009-XXXX]

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

ACTION: Extension of Public Comment Period

SUMMARY: The NRC is extending the public comment period on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) NRC is preparing regarding the proposed General Electric—Hitachi (GEH) Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) facility in New Hanover County, North Carolina. The original Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, which was published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2009 (74 FR 16237), indicated public comments should be submitted by June 8, 2009.

In a May 5, 2009, letter to the NRC, GEH indicated it intends to submit safety-related aspects of its license application to NRC in June, 2009. The public comment period on the scope of the EIS is being extended to August XX, 2009, to allow members of the public to review publicly-available portions of the license application during the scoping period for the EIS. Members of the public are invited and encouraged to submit comments regarding the appropriate scope and content of the EIS.

DATES: NRC is extending the public comment period on the scope of the EIS to August XX, 2009. Comments should be postmarked by that date to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practical.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be sent electronically to GLE.EIS@nrc.gov. Comments also may be sent to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Mail Stop TWB 5B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Please note Docket No. 70-7016 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For general or technical information associated with the licensing review of the GLE application, please contact Tim Johnson at (301) 492-3121 or Timothy.Johnson@NRC.gov. For general information on the NRC NEPA process, or the environmental review process related to the GLE application, please contact Christianne Ridge at (301) 415-5673 or Christianne.Ridge@NRC.gov.

Information and documents associated with the proposed GLE facility, including the environmental report (ER) submitted by GEH on January 30, 2009, are available for public review through NRC's electronic reading room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Members of the public may access the applicant's ER in NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at accession number ML090910573.

A copy of the applicant's ER is available for public inspection at the New Hanover County Library, located at 201 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Documents also may be obtained from NRC's Public Document Room at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 30, 2009, GEH submitted an ER that proposes the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a laser-based uranium enrichment facility. GEH proposes to locate the facility on the existing General Electric Company (GE)/Global Nuclear Fuel–Americas (GNF-A) site near Wilmington, in New Hanover County, North Carolina. The NRC, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its regulations at 10 CFR Part 51, will prepare an EIS evaluating this proposed action.

GEH submitted the ER to NRC as part of its application for authorization to construct and operate a laser-based uranium enrichment facility. To complete its license application, GEH must submit additional information related to facility safety in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act. By letter dated May 5, 2009, GEH indicated it intends to submit the remainder of its license application in June, 2009. When GEH completes the license application, NRC will conduct a 30-day acceptance review to determine whether it will accept the application for detailed review. If NRC accepts the application, NRC will publish a Notice of Hearing and Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene (Hearing Notice) in a future Federal Register notice. The Hearing Notice will indicate how members of the public may access portions of the applicant's license application. Portions of the license application that contain classified or security-related information will be withheld from public availability.

The public comment period on the scope of the EIS is being extended to allow members of the public to review publicly-available portions of the license application during the scoping period.

Signed in Rockville, Maryland, this _____ day of June 2009.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
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