



**U.S.NRC**

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Protecting People and the Environment*

**Columbia Generating Station  
License Renewal Process  
and  
Environmental Scoping Meeting**

**April 6, 2010**



## Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Provide overview of license renewal review process
  - Safety review
  - Environmental review
  
- Receive public input on environmental review



# NRC Regulatory Oversight

- NRC's Governing Statutes
  - Atomic Energy Act
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
  
- NRC's Mission
  - Protect Public Health and Safety
  - Promote Common Defense and Security
  - Protect Environment



# Ongoing Regulatory Oversight

- Current Safety Performance

<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>

- Emergency Planning

- Security



# Columbia License Renewal

- License renewal application received on January 20, 2010

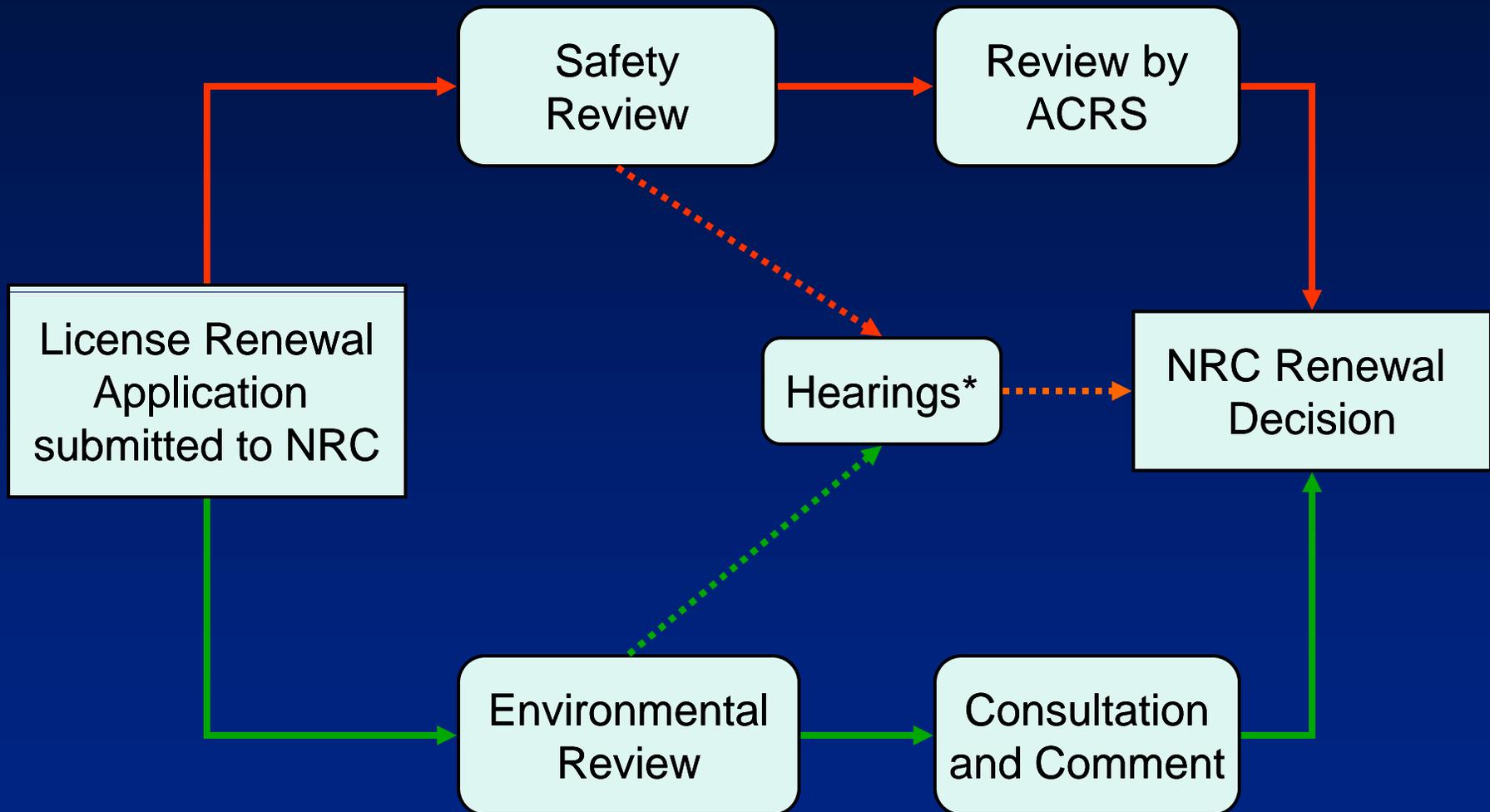
Columbia - license expires December 20, 2023



# Docketing and Sufficiency of Application

- Acceptance/Sufficiency review
- Review contents of application
  - Technical information
  - Technical Specifications
  - Environmental Report
- Docket

# License Renewal Process



\* If a Request for Hearing is Granted



## License Renewal Schedule

- 22 months is target
- Hearings, if granted, add time
- Review scheduled to be completed November 2011 (if no hearing)



# License Renewal Safety Principles

- The ongoing regulatory process is adequate to ensure the safety of all currently operating plants
- The same plant operating rules apply during the renewal term
  - NRC applies additional conditions for aging management

# Safety Review Focus

- Safety review focus is on the effects of aging of:
  - Safety-related systems, structures, and components (SSCs)
  - Nonsafety-related SSCs which, if they failed, could affect safety-related SSC functions
  - SSCs relied upon for compliance with regulations.
  
- Safety review is to determine if aging effects will be effectively managed



# Safety Review Process

- Technical review by NRC staff
  - Review application and supporting documentation
  - On-site audits
  - Issue Safety Evaluation Report
- On-site inspections by NRC staff
- Independent review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards



# Safety Review Public Involvement

- Hearing opportunity
  - Deadline for Filing Hearing Requests and Petitions for Intervention: May 14, 2010
  
- ACRS meetings (tentative dates)
  - Subcommittee meeting in April 2011
  - Full committee meeting in September 2011

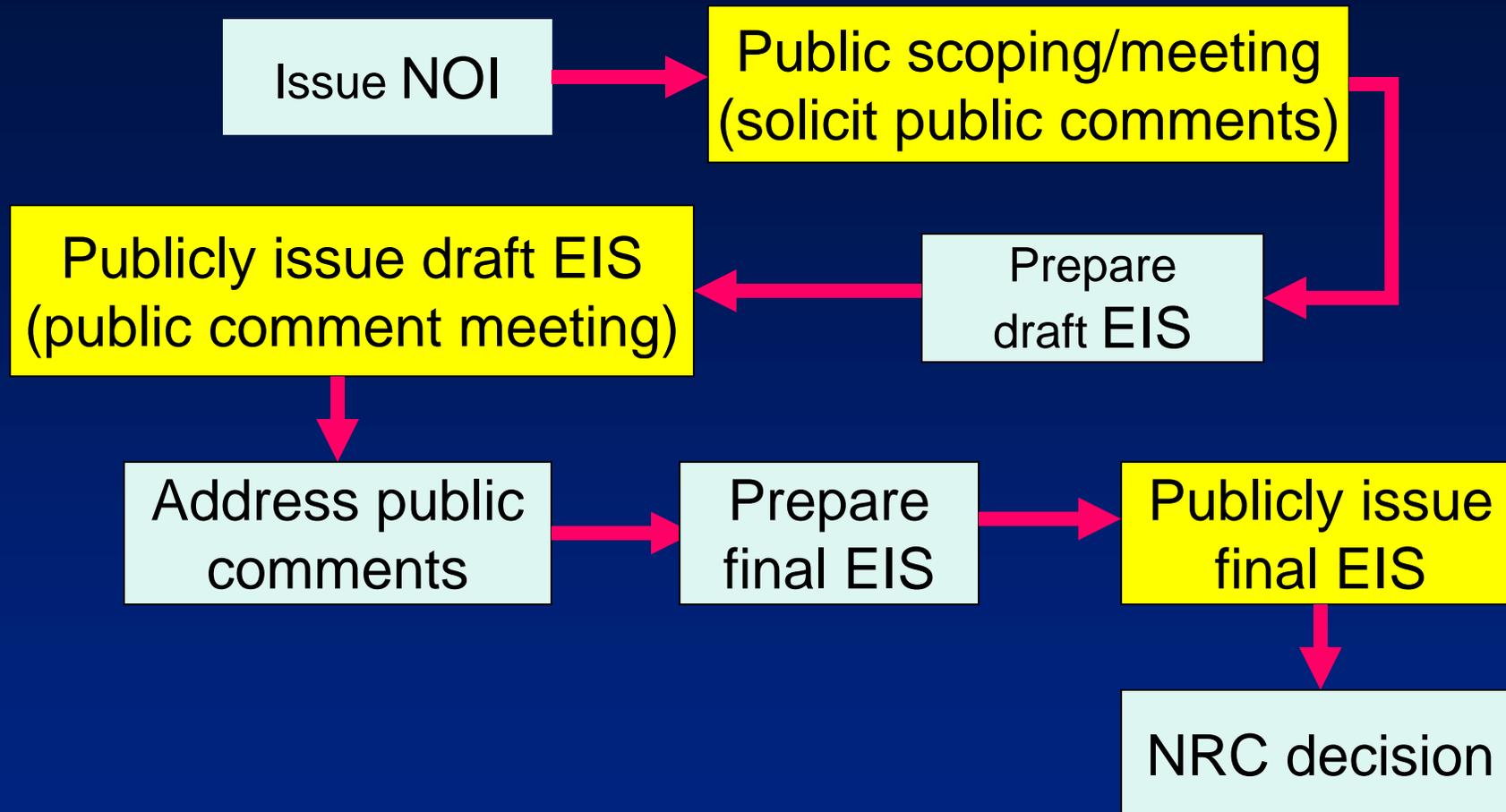


# Environmental Review Process

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):
  - Establishes basic environmental policy for the U.S.
  - NEPA requires preparation of an:
    - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for:
      - Major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment
  - An objective, interdisciplinary, & systematic process be used in preparing the EIS

- The EIS must:
  - Rigorously investigate environmental impacts of:
    - License renewal proposal and alternatives
- Purpose of the EIS is to inform:
  - Federal decision-makers and to publicly disclose:
    - Impacts of the proposal and “reasonable alternatives”
    - Including the alternative of taking “no-action”
- NRC’s Environmental Regulations:
  - 10 CFR Part 51

# EIS Process



## Notes:

- NOI: Notice of Intent
- EIS: Environmental Impact Statement
- Yellow blocks represent key public participation steps

## Purpose of this Meeting

- Purpose of this public scoping meeting:
  - Is to solicit public input/comments:
    - Regarding the scope of the EIS
  - Is not to make a decision regarding the proposed:
    - license renewal application
  - EIS will assist the NRC in reaching a final decision:
    - Regarding the license renewal application

# Scoping Process

- This EIS scoping process will be used to determine the scope of:
  - Actions
  - Impacts
  - Alternatives

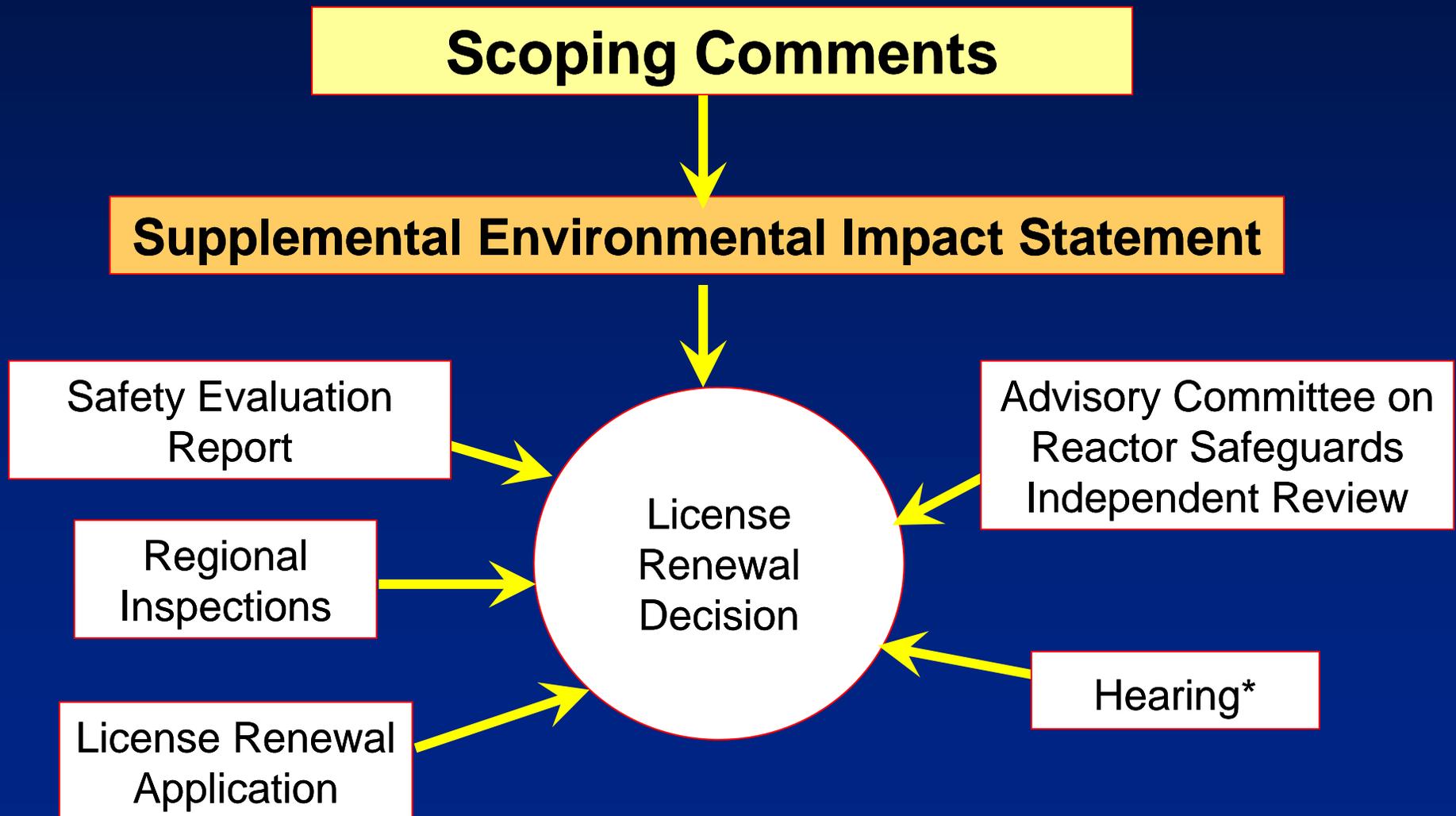
# Environmental Impact Statement

## EIS Evaluates Impacts to Resources

- Fish and Wildlife
- Water and Air Resources
- Historical or Cultural Resources
- Taxes, Community Development, Environmental Justice
- Human Health
- Land Use



# Role of Scoping Comments in the Decision-Making Process



\*If a Request for Hearing is Granted



## Scoping and Public Involvement

- What is unique about your community?
- What local environmental issues should the NRC examine?
- What socioeconomic issues should be examined (e.g. jobs, taxes, infrastructure)?
- What reasonable alternatives are appropriate for the area?



## How to Submit Comments on the Environmental Review

Provide written comments:

- ✓ By mail: Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services  
Mailstop TWB-5B01M  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555
  
- ✓ Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov>  
Search on Docket ID: NRC-2010-0029

Comments to be submitted by **May 14, 2010**



## Environmental Review Milestones

Application Received	Jan 20, 2010
Notice of Opportunity for Hearing	Mar 11, 2010
Notice of Intent for Scoping	Mar 11, 2010
Environmental Scoping Meeting	Apr 6, 2010
<b>Hearing Opportunity Closes</b>	<b>May 14, 2010</b>
<b>Scoping Comments Due</b>	<b>May 14, 2010</b>
Draft SEIS Issued	Dec 15, 2010
Draft SEIS Public Meeting	Jan 12, 2011
Draft SEIS Comments Due	Mar 7, 2011
Final SEIS Issued	Jul 19, 2011



## Project Manager Information

**Dan Doyle**

(800) 368-5642 ext. 3748

[Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov](mailto:Daniel.Doyle@nrc.gov)

**Evelyn Gettys**

(800) 368-5642 ext. 4029

[Evelyn.Gettys@nrc.gov](mailto:Evelyn.Gettys@nrc.gov)



## Where to view documents

Documents located at:

- **Richland Public Library**  
955 Northgate Drive  
Richland, WA 99352
- **Kennewick Library**  
1620 S Union Street  
Kennewick, WA 99338

Documents can be viewed at the NRC's Web site:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/columbia.html>