



U.S. NRC

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

Seabrook Station License Renewal Process Overview

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Division of License Renewal

NRC Regulatory Oversight

- **NRC's Primary Governing Statutes**
 - Atomic Energy Act
 - Energy Reorganization Act
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- **NRC's Mission**
 - Protect public health and safety
 - Promote the common defense and security
 - Protect the environment

Seabrook Station License Renewal

- Current operating license expires on 3/15/2030 (40 years of operation)
- NRC received Seabrook's license renewal application on 6/1/2010
- If the NRC decides to renew the license, it would expire in 2050

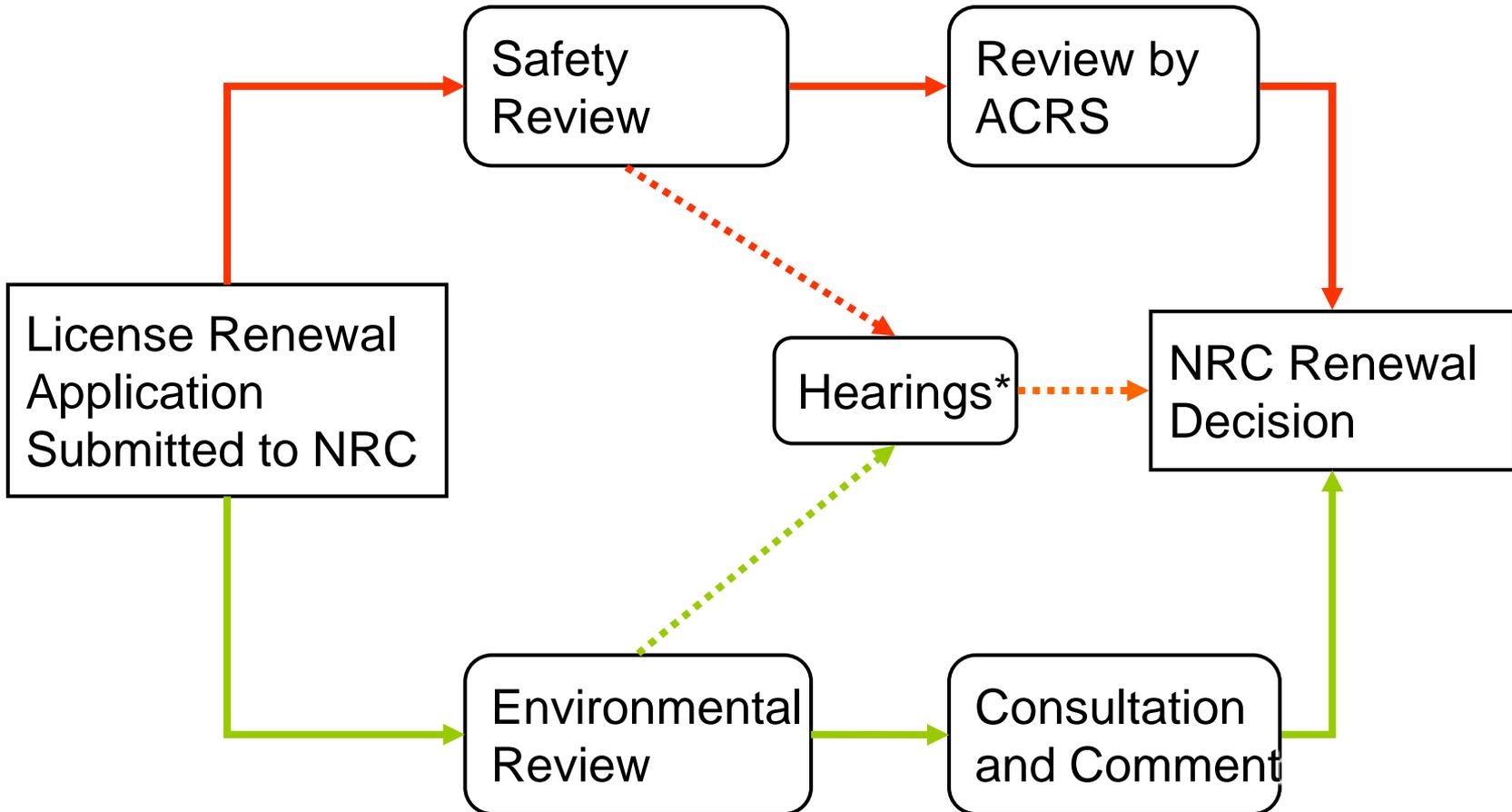
Why 20 years?

- Common question: Why can Seabrook Station apply for renewal with 20 years remaining on its current license?
 - Seabrook Station is legally allowed to do so:
 - Section 54.17(c) in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*
 - NRC determined that:
 - 20 years of operational and regulatory experience provides an applicant with substantial amounts of information and would disclose any plant-specific concerns with regard to age-related degradation
 - 20 years remaining on the operating license would be reasonable considering the estimated time for utilities to plan for replacement of retired plants

Application Contents

- General information about the plant owner or operator
- Technical information about plant structures and components and how the applicant proposes to manage aging
- Changes to plant technical specifications
- Environmental report documenting the effects of extending the license by 20 years

License Renewal Process



* If a Request for Hearing is Granted

Safety Review (10 CFR Part 54)

- Focus is on the effects of component aging and structures important to plant safety
- Staff review is to determine that aging effects will be effectively managed
 - Review application and supporting documentation
 - On-site audits
- On-site inspections by NRC Region I
- Issue Safety Evaluation Report
- Independent review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)

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

Ongoing Regulatory Oversight

- **Emergency Planning**
 - 10 CFR Section 50.47
- **Security**
 - 10 CFR Part 73
- **Current Safety Performance**
 - Reactor Oversight Process

Environmental Review (10 CFR Part 51)

- Focus is on environmental impacts of continued plant operation for an additional 20 years
- Staff review is to determine if the environmental impacts of license renewal are so great that license renewal would be unreasonable
- Staff prepares an Environmental Impact Statement
- **Public input drives consideration of environmental issues**

Environmental Impact Statement

- Staff evaluates impacts to resources
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Water and Air Resources
 - Historical and Cultural Resources
 - Socioeconomic (taxes, community development, environmental justice)
 - Human Health
 - Land Use
- Significant coordination with State agencies, Federal agencies, and the public



Critical Milestones

- Acceptance Review
- Public Meeting – Scoping & Process Overview
- Safety & Environmental Site Audits
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Public Meeting – Comments on Draft EIS
- Independent review by ACRS
- Final EIS
- Safety Evaluation Report
- NRC Renewal Decision

Opportunities for Public Involvement

- Opportunity for hearing*
- Environmental scoping input*
 - Public meeting
- Draft EIS input*
 - Public meeting
- Independent review by ACRS*
- Other meetings (as required) to support the NRC staff's application review

**Federal Register* Notice and Press Release

Final Agency Decision

- Commission considers:
 - Results of the safety review
 - Environmental impact statement
 - NRC inspection findings and conclusions
 - Recommendations from the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards
 - Outcome of the hearing process
- Typical License Renewal Review
 - 22 months without a hearing
 - 30 months if a hearing is conducted

Document Locations

- Seabrook, NH Public Library
- Amesbury, MA Public Library
- [http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/
licensing/renewal/applications/
seabrook.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/seabrook.html)

Keeping Up-To-Date

- Website for public comments on Federal documents and actions:

www.regulations.gov

- If you would like to keep up-to-date with all of the correspondence related to Seabrook Station (which includes license renewal), sign up for the Seabrook Station listserver:

[http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/
listserver/plants-by-region.html](http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver/plants-by-region.html)



Points of Contact

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