

## **Combined License Application Reviews**

### **Explanation of the Issue**

As of March 31, 2011, the NRC received and docketed 18 combined license applications (COLAs), 12 of which are under active review. These COLAs were submitted under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulation* (10 CFR) Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants," 10 CFR Part 52. Five COLAs have either been suspended due to changes in the applicants' business strategies. One COLA was withdrawn and the applicant submitted an Early Site Permit. Watts Bar, Unit 2 and Bellefonte Unit 1 licensing activities are part of the New Reactors Business Line; however the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is managing these 10 CFR Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," licensing projects.

The primary challenge that is common to COLA reviews is the variable levels of detail provided in the following areas: hydrology, seismology, geology, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), security, and loss of large areas of a nuclear power plant due to explosion or fire.

### **Status**

The staff expects to complete both the safety and environmental portions of the first of these COLA reviews in 2011-2012. Staff's experience with these applications has demonstrated that Part 52 and the design-centered review approach have been successful in achieving standardization around a selected design and have resulted in a clear safety focus and resource savings.

At this time, the staff is making good progress on the applications it currently has under review. The reviews have been complicated because some applicants are revising the proposed designs currently under review. For all of the applications, it is important that applicants minimize design and siting modifications and work aggressively to resolve open issues. Further, COL applicants are revising the submittal dates for responses to requests for additional information (RAIs), thereby causing schedule delays and therefore causing resource impacts. The staff is working with applicants to overcome these challenges. Staff is focusing on driving the remaining technical issues to resolution.

The NRC staff continues to work with the applicants to ensure that they understand the regulatory process and the regulations. In addition, staff is taking a proactive approach to address schedule issues by actively engaging the applicants regarding their progress in meeting their established COLA review schedules.

### **Relevant Additional Information**

None provided.