



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region II
245 Peachtree Center Ave. NE, Suite 1200
Atlanta, GA 30303-1257
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

No. II-12-027

May 1, 2012

CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 997-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 997-4416

E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED GLOBAL LASER ENRICHMENT FACILITY

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a meeting to discuss the recently issued Safety Evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement for a laser-based uranium enrichment facility proposed to be built in Wilmington, N.C.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 10 in Ballroom A of the Burney Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina – Wilmington. The NRC staff will be available beginning at 6 p.m. to informally discuss the documents and findings with the public.

The SER and the EIS effectively complete the staff's review of the license application filed by General Electric Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment LLC to construct and operate the facility at the site of the General Electric-Hitachi Global Nuclear Fuel-America's fuel fabrication plant. The NRC's Atomic and Safety Licensing Board must complete its hearing on the staff's review before a license could be issued. That hearing is expected to take place this summer.

The SER contains the staff's conclusion that GLE's descriptions, specifications and analyses provide an adequate basis for safety and safeguards of facility operations and that operation of the facility would not pose an undue risk to workers or public health and safety.

The final EIS on the facility contains the staff's conclusion that the project would have small to moderate impacts on the local environment, primarily during preconstruction activities.

The Safety Evaluation Report (NUREG-2120) and final EIS (NUREG-1938) are available through the NRC's ADAMS online document database (ML12060A007) and (ML12047A040 and ML12047A042). Both documents are available on the NRC's website.

GEH submitted its application in June 2009. GEH proposes to use laser-based technology to enrich uranium in the U-235 isotope to concentrations up to 8 percent by weight. The enriched uranium would be used in manufacturing fuel for commercial nuclear power plants.

More information is available at www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/laser.html .

###

News releases are available through a free [Listserv subscription](#) or by clicking on the [EMAIL UPDATES](#) link on the NRC homepage (www.nrc.gov). E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website. For the latest news, follow the NRC on www.twitter.com/NRCgov.