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NRC Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Procedures For New Reactor Pre-Operation Hearings; Meeting May 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is seeking public comments on [proposed generic procedures](#) the agency would use to conduct hearings on whether a new reactor has been built according to its license.

The agency expects to hold an information meeting on the proposed procedures May 21 at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Md. Further details on the meeting will be available approximately two weeks before the meeting.

When the NRC issues a Combined License for a new reactor, that license includes the inspections, tests, analyses and acceptance criteria to be satisfied during construction. The NRC must find the acceptance criteria are met before reactor operation is authorized. Individuals or groups have a limited opportunity to ask for a hearing to challenge whether all the acceptance criteria have been or will be met. The NRC updated its [policy](#) on this subset of hearings in 2008.

The Commission directed the staff in 2013 to draw up procedures for these “acceptance criteria” hearings. After the staff resolves public comments, the draft procedures will go to the Commission for approval. The Commission will then use the adopted final procedures as a basis for orders specific to each hearing.

Comments on the proposed procedures will be accepted until July 2 and can be submitted via the [federal rulemaking website](#) under Docket ID NRC-2014-0077. Comments may also be submitted by mail to Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: 3WFN-06-44M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.