

FOR

(7590-01-P)

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

10 CFR Part 51

RIH 3150-AD94

Environmental Review For Renewal of Operating

Licenses: Public Meeting

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is announcing regional meetings to discuss options for addressing certain concerns expressed by a number of States in comments submitted to the NRC on the proposed rule on the environmental review required for renewal of nuclear power plant operating licenses. The concerns that will be addressed involve provisions of the proposed rule that the States see as being in conflict with the traditional authority of the States to regulate electrical utilities with respect to questions of need, reliability, cost, resource options, and other non-safety aspects of nuclear power generation. The minutes will be transcribed by a court recorder in all regional meetings.

DATES: The dates of the regional meetings are: Rockville, MD, February 9, 1994; Rosemont, IL, February 15, 1994; Chicopee, MA, February 17, 1994.

Parties interested in participating in a panel should contact Donald P. Cleary

9402070072 940111
PDR NUREG 1437 C?
ENCE PDR

488

1 F02
11

no later than January 28, 1994. Written comments on the matters covered in the staff paper and the meetings that are received by March 4, 1994 will be considered along with comments made during the meetings. Comments received after this date will be considered if it is practical to do so.

ADDRESS: The meetings will be held at the following locations: The Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852; The Holiday Inn, O'Hare, 5440 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018; The Comfort Inn at the Parwick Centre, 450 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA 01020. Written comments should be sent to Donald P. Cleary at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald P. Cleary, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; Telephone: (301) 492-3936.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The purpose of the regional meetings is to gain the views of the States and other interested parties on how the NRC should treat need for generating capacity and alternative energy sources in its final rule on the environmental review for renewal of nuclear power plant operating licenses. The NRC published in the Federal Register proposed amendments to its environmental protection regulations, 10 CFR Part 51, which would establish new requirements for the environmental review of applications to renew operating licenses for nuclear power plants (September 17, 1991; 56 FR 47016). Concurrently, the NRC published NUREG-1437, a draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GFIS)

that contained the analyses which the NRC proposed to codify in Part 51. The public comment period on the proposed rule, the GEIS, and other related documents closed on March 17, 1992. In commenting on the proposed rule and the draft GEIS, a number of States expressed dissatisfaction with the treatment of need for generating capacity, and alternative energy sources. The States' concerns involve provisions of the proposed rule that the States see as being in conflict with the traditional authority of the States to regulate electrical utilities with respect to questions of need, reliability, cost, resource options, and other non-safety aspects of nuclear power generation. The Commission instructed the NRC staff to develop options for responding to these State concerns. In developing the options the staff is to solicit the views of the States.

The staff is soliciting the views of the States through four regional meetings and a request for written comments. To facilitate discussions with the States the staff has prepared a paper, "Addressing the Concerns of States and Others Regarding the Role of Need for Generating Capacity, Alternative Energy Sources, Utility Costs, and Cost-Benefit Analysis in NRC Environmental Reviews for Relicensing Nuclear Power Plants: An NRC Staff Discussion Paper," which may be either examined at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW. (Lower Level), Washington, DC 20037, or obtained from Donald P. Cleary at the address provided above.

Each meeting will be conducted in a panel format with panelists representing those States that submitted comments on the treatment of need for generating capacity and alternative energy sources, other interested States, electric utilities, the NRC, and interest groups concerned with the economic regulation of electric utilities. All interested persons are invited to

attend as observers and time will be scheduled to take questions and comments from the floor. The meeting minutes will be transcribed by a court reporter. Written comments on the matters covered in the staff paper and the meetings are invited. The public comment period will close on March 4, 1994.

Each meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and, with a 1 hour lunch break, will continue until 5:00 p.m. if participation warrants. Registration will be conducted one-half hour prior to the meeting.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 11th day of January, 1994.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Bill M. Morris

Bill M. Morris, Director,
Division of Regulatory Applications,
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research.