

## **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Public Meeting Summary**

**Title:** Public Meeting on the Path Forward for Site-Specific Environmental Reviews of Subsequent License Renewal

**Meeting Identifier:** 20220659

**Date of Meetings:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022

**Location:** Webinar

**Type of Meeting:** Information Meeting with a Question and Answer Session

### **Purpose of the Meeting(s):**

For the NRC staff to discuss its proposed plans to 1) address any site-specific environmental report submittals related to pending subsequent license renewal applications, and 2) publish any notice(s) of opportunity for hearing related to those submittals, given recent Commission direction in CLI-22-02, CLI-22-03, and CLI-22-04.

### **General Details:**

The NRC held a public information meeting with a question and answer session to discuss the staff's planned path forward for involving site-specific environmental reviews of subsequent license renewal. The meeting started at 3:00 p.m. ET and ended at approximately 4:30 p.m. ET. The meeting began with a brief review of meeting ground rules, followed by a presentation by the NRC staff on the NRC's regulatory role, a brief background on the recent Commission orders and the staff's activities involving subsequent license renewal, some of the major milestones in the staff's planned path forward in addressing environmental submittals before the work of the Subsequent License Environmental Directorate is completed, and an approximate timeline for the staff's work. There was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the NRC staff's presentation as well as for members of the public to provide oral comments.

The meeting was attended by nearly 100 participants including representatives of licensees and environmental organizations, as well as members of the public. Questions and comments addressed topics such as climate change, Oconee flooding and dam safety, and staggering submittals from licensees.

### **Summary of Presentation:**

After providing some background information, the staff's presentation focused on a few major aspects of the interim process, as well as a preliminary timeline. The staff noted that the NRC is scheduled to issue a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) supplement and associated rulemaking evaluating generic issues for subsequent license renewal in mid-2024. Prior to issuance of the GEIS supplement, the NRC intends to:

- rely on 10 CFR 51.41 to issue requests for additional information (RAI) and requests for confirmation of information (RCI), as appropriate, to obtain sufficient information to

evaluate the environmental impacts of a subsequent license renewal on a site-specific basis.

- evaluate all applicable Category 1 (generic) issues listed in the relevant supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) Table 4-1 for site-specific findings.
- evaluate applicable Category 2 (site-specific) issues listed in the applicable SEIS Table 4-2 for new information since the issuance of the facility-specific draft or final SEIS and update site-specific analyses, as appropriate.
- issue a notice of intent to issue a site-specific draft SEIS or draft SEIS supplement that begins a limited 30-day scoping period, as appropriate. During a scoping period, the NRC would be soliciting comments on applicable Category 1 issues as well as new information on Category 2 issues for the site.
- complete an environmental audit and issue RAIs and RCIs where necessary to support NRC staff having a complete understanding of the applicable environmental issues for the site-specific draft SEIS or draft SEIS supplement.
- issue a site-specific draft SEIS or draft SEIS supplement for a 45-day public comment period depending upon the specific facility and where that facility was in the environmental review process when the Commission issued its orders.
- issue a 60-day notice of opportunity for hearing upon publication of a draft SEIS or draft SEIS supplement, on a site-specific basis.
- issue a site-specific final SEIS or final SEIS supplement to inform the decision on whether to issue a subsequently renewed operating license.

The staff expressed its intent to complete these reviews in approximately 15 months, but noted that staff work prioritization, specifically related to revising the License Renewal Generic Environmental Impact Statement to address Category 1 issues for subsequent license renewal, may impact that timeline. In addition, the staff observed that hearings could impact the schedule on a site-specific basis.

The staff reiterated that licensees could elect to wait for issuance of the license renewal GEIS supplement or submit a site-specific evaluation of generic issues on a site-specific basis.

**Action Items/Next Steps:**

The NRC staff will consider the comments and discussion as it moves forward with its activities.

**Attachments:**

- Meeting description and agenda – ML22222A129
- NRC staff presentation – ML22228A253