



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 26, 2022

Larry Long
NEPA Program Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR THE KAIROS HERMES TEST REACTOR IN OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE (DOCKET NUMBER: 50-7513)

Dear Larry Long:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Kairos Power, LLC (Kairos) for a construction permit (CP) pursuant to title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* part 50, that would allow construction of a non-power test reactor termed Hermes on a 185-acre site located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. As part of the review of this CP application, the NRC has completed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The draft EIS, NUREG-2263 "Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction Permit for the Kairos Hermes Test Reactor," is publicly available from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) as ML22259A126. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

The draft EIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues and documents the NRC staff's determination regarding effects of constructing the Kairos Hermes test reactor. As discussed in chapter 5 of the draft EIS, the NRC staff's preliminary recommendation, unless safety issues mandate otherwise, is that the CP be issued as proposed. This recommendation is based on: (1) the analysis and findings of the staff's independent environmental review documented in the draft EIS; (2) consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies; (3) the environmental report submitted by the applicant; and (4) the consideration of public comments. If a CP were granted, it would not authorize operation of the reactor. Should Kairos choose to proceed with its proposed project, they would need to apply for, and receive, a separate operating license from the NRC. This authorization would constitute a separate NRC undertaking and would require the NRC to prepare a supplement to the CP final EIS.

The NRC staff plans to hold a public meeting to discuss the analyses and results in the draft EIS on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at the Hilton DoubleTree, 215 S. Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The meeting will convene at 7:00p.m. and will continue until 9:00p.m. EST, as necessary. Those unable to attend in person may view and participate in the meeting virtually and should monitor the NRC's Public Meeting Schedule website at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg> for access information. Meeting details will also be available by November 1, 2022, at <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/non-power/kairos-hermes.html>. The

meeting will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the draft EIS; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft EIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host an open house one hour before the start of the meeting during which members of the public may meet with NRC staff. You and your staff are invited to attend.

The NRC requests that your office submit any information, comments, or concerns you may have on the draft EIS during the 60-day comment period, which ends on December 6, 2022. Comments can be submitted: (1) by email to KairosHermes-CPEIS@nrc.gov; or (2) in person during the public meetings. After consideration of public comments received, as well as information received through consultation, the NRC will prepare a final EIS, which is scheduled to be published on or before September 2023.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this CP application, please contact Peyton Doub via phone at (301) 415-6703 or via email at Peyton.Doub@nrc.gov or Tamsen Dozier via phone at (301) 415-2272 or via email at Tamsen.Dozier@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Erwin, Kenneth
on 09/26/22

Kenneth Erwin, Chief
Environmental Review New Reactors Branch
Division of Rulemaking, Environment,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No: 50-7513

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT FOR THE KAIROS HERMES TEST REACTOR IN OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE (DOCKET NUMBER: 50-7513)

DATED: September 26, 2022

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC
NMSS_REFS_ENRB Distribution
BBeasely, NRR
CRegan, NMSS/REFS
JMoses, NMSS/REFS
WKennedy, NRR/DANU
EHelvenston, NRR/DANU
SCuadrado, NMSS/REFS
MWright, OGC
BAyersman, OGC
SBurnell, OPA
CWolf, OCA
RidsOgcMailCenter
RidsOpaMail

ADAMS Accession No.: ML22243A148

OFFICE	PM:REFS	LA:REFS
NAME	PDoub	AWalker-Smith
DATE	09/13/2022	09/13/2022
OFFICE	OGC (NLO)	BC:REFS
NAME	MWright	KErwin
DATE	09/22/2022	09/26/2022

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY