

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

AFFIRMATION SESSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Commission Hearing Room
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland
November 20, 2024

The Commission met in open session, pursuant to notice at 10:03 A.M., Christopher T. Hanson, Chair, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

CHRISTOPHER T. HANSON, Chair (via teleconference)

DAVID A. WRIGHT, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

ANNIE CAPUTO, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

BRADLEY R. CROWELL, Member of the Commission (via teleconference)

ALSO PRESENT:

BROOKE P. CLARK, General Counsel (via teleconference)

CARRIE M. SAFFORD, Secretary of the Commission (via teleconference)

DISCLAIMER

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[10:03 a.m.]

PROCEEDINGS

CHAIR HANSON: I am Christopher Hanson, Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and I am presiding over this public affirmation session, which is being conducted by teleconference.

Joining me are the other currently serving members of the Commission. May I have each Commissioner affirm their presence when I call their name:

Commissioner Wright: Here.

Commissioner Caputo: Here.

Commissioner Crowell: Present.

Also participating are:

Carrie Safford, Secretary of the Commission: Here.

and

Brooke Clark, General Counsel: Here.

This meeting is open to the public to listen in.

Madam Secretary, I believe we have one item for affirmation. Would you please lead the Commission through?

CARRIE SAFFORD: Yes. Today's item is SECY-24-0088: Kairos Power, LLC (Hermes 2 Test Reactor Facility), Docket Nos. 50-611-CP & 50-612-CP, Mandatory Hearing Decision.

The Commission is being asked to act on a Memorandum and Order addressing the required findings of 10 Code of Federal Regulations sections 50.35, 50.40 and 51.105(a) concerning the application of Kairos Power, LLC to construct a non-power test reactor facility at the East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

The Commission has voted to approve a Memorandum and Order that authorizes issuance of the construction permits.

Would you please affirm your votes after I call your name?

CHAIR HANSON: Aye.

COMMISSIONER WRIGHT: Aye.

COMMISSIONER CAPUTO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: Aye.

CARRIE SAFFORD: Thank you, that's all I have.

CHAIR HANSON: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Would any of the members of the Commission like to make comments regarding the decision just reached?

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: Chair Hanson, this is Commissioner Crowell. I have a couple of comments.

CHAIR HANSON: Please go ahead

COMMISSIONER CROWELL: As the Secretary noted, the Commission today has acted on the memorandum and order approving Kairos Power, LLC to construct a non-power test reactor in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. In doing so, I think it is appropriate to briefly underscore the significance of this milestone in the context the NRC's efforts to become a more contemporary, risk-informed regulator.

First, today's milestone is noteworthy because it was reached using the new, simplified mandatory hearing procedures approved by the Commission earlier this year. The Commission's actions today demonstrate the NRC's ability to enhance efficiency while continuing to meet our statutory obligations through commonsense process improvements. These process enhancements allow for the public, transparent exchange of written materials in lieu of conducting an oral hearing with the parties appearing in-person before the Commission.

It is therefore worth noting for the record that the Commission was able to fully execute its responsibility under this simplified process by allowing Commissioners to ask questions and receive responses from the NRC staff and the applicant in writing as necessary to make the determination that we've affirmed today. A determination, I would note, that also received a recommendation for approval by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

Second, today's milestone demonstrates the value of effective engagement by the NRC staff during the application review with external stakeholders, in conjunction with productive, in-depth interactions with the applicant. These engagements helped establish the solid foundation for the NRC staff to conduct its safety and environmental reviews while focusing on unique features and novel issues.

Taken together and having now seen the revised process once-through in practice, I see this an example of our ability to work efficiently while fully upholding our mission to protect public health and safety. I am encouraged by our collective commitment to responsibly enhance agency efficiency, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue our efforts in this regard.

CHAIR HANSON: Thank you, Commissioner Crowell. Do any of the other members of the Commission have any comments they wish to make?

<PAUSE>

Okay, hearing none, I will call the affirmation session to a close.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached description of a meeting of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission entitled:

TITLE OF MEETING: Affirmation Session

(PUBLIC MEETING)

PLACE OF MEETING: Rockville, Maryland

DATE OF MEETING: November 20, 2024

was held as herein appears, is a true and accurate record of the meeting, and that this is the original transcript thereof taken stenographically by me, thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company.

Transcriber: Samantha Miklaszewski

Reporter: Via Teleconference