



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 04-013

January 27, 2004

NRC MODIFIES FINANCIAL INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POWER REACTOR LICENSES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its regulations to remove the requirement that power reactor licensees that are not electric utilities submit financial information in their license renewal applications. Within the meaning of NRC regulations, an “electric utility” refers to any entity that generates or distributes electricity and recovers the cost of this electricity through rates established by a separate regulatory authority, or by the entity itself as in the case of a public utility district.

The NRC is also adding a requirement that a licensee changing from an electric utility to a non-electric utility status without a license transfer notify the NRC and submit the financial information that is required for obtaining an initial operating license. A “non-electric utility” refers to a company that sells electricity at spot market prices and therefore does not recover its costs through the rate-making process.

The NRC believes that its financial reviews during initial licensing, license transfers or the transition from electric utility to non-electric utility status, in addition to monitoring of financial health between these reviews, provide a sufficiently comprehensive framework to assess financial qualifications. The agency does not believe that the license renewal process is sufficiently unique to warrant a separate financial review.

On June 4, 2002, the NRC published a proposed rule on changes to the requirement for non-utilities to submit financial information. It received comments from nine different organizations, including a state group, three non-profit firms and five companies in the nuclear power industry. Although all comments were considered, no changes were made to the final rule, which will become effective 30 days after publication in a *Federal Register* notice, expected soon.

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