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NRC RENEWS OPERATING LICENSES FOR NINE MILE POINT UNITS 1 AND 2 FOR AN ADDITIONAL 20 YEARS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has renewed the operating licenses of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, for an additional 20 years.

Nine Mile Point is located on the shore of Lake Ontario about five miles northeast of Oswego, N.Y. The licensee, Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station LLC (now a subsidiary of Constellation Nuclear), submitted its license renewal application May 26, 2004. With the renewal, the license for Unit 1 is extended until Aug. 22, 2029, and the license for Unit 2 is extended until Oct. 31, 2046.

The NRC's environmental review for this license renewal is described in a site-specific supplement to the NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437, Supplement 24), issued in May. The review concluded there were no environmental impacts that would preclude renewal of the licenses for environmental reasons. Public meetings to discuss the environmental review were held near the plant Sept. 21, 2004, and Nov. 17, 2005.

After carefully reviewing the plant's safety systems and specifications, the staff concluded that there were no safety concerns that would preclude license renewal, because the licensee had demonstrated effectively the capability to manage the effects of plant aging. The "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the License Renewal of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2" (NUREG-1900) was published in June. In addition, NRC conducted inspections of the plant to verify information submitted by the licensee. The reports relating to the Nine Mile Point renewal are available on the NRC Web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/nine-mile-pt.html> .

On Aug. 2, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards - an independent body of technical experts which advises the Commission - issued its recommendation that the operating licenses for Nine Mile Point be renewed. That recommendation is contained in "Report on the Safety Aspects of the License Renewal Application for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2." This document is available on the NRC Web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/letters/2006/> .

The Nine Mile Point renewals bring the total number of renewals to 46 reactor units. A complete listing of renewal applications can be found on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html> .

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