



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 07-169

December 20, 2007

NRC CLARIFIES ACCEPTANCE PROCESS FOR NEW REACTOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) clarifying the agency's procedures for accepting applications for a Combined License (COL) to build and operate a new nuclear power plant.

In particular, the RIS describes an expanded 60-day "acceptance review" every COL application will go through, ensuring it is complete and technically sufficient for a full review, before the staff decides whether to "docket," or formally accept the application. This expansion, from the general 30-day acceptance review, is one of several recommendations from an agency task force that sought to identify possible efficiencies in the new reactor licensing process. The Commission voted in June to adopt several of those recommendations (<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2007/07-080.html>). In its decision, the Commission also stated the staff's overall review schedule for a COL application should start at the point of docketing, not during the 60-day acceptance review.

The RIS also informs potential applicants that the Office of New Reactors has issued formal staff guidance for conducting an acceptance review. This guidance includes information on how the NRC will consider issues, such as departures from a certified design or alternative methods for meeting regulatory requirements, when developing an application-specific review schedule.

The RIS is available on the NRC's Web site here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues/2007/>. More information on the NRC's new reactor licensing process is available here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html>.

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