



NRC NEWS

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Office of Public Affairs, Region II
61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303
Web Site: www.nrc.gov

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CONTACT: Roger Hannah (404) 562-4417
Joey Ledford (404) 562-4416

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E-mail: OPA2@nrc.gov

NRC POSTPONES JUNE 17 NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES MEETING RELATED TO PROPOSED NEW LINE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has postponed a public meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, to discuss the results of a readiness review inspection at Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS). The inspection is related to the Erwin, Tenn., facility's license amendment authorizing a new commercial development line for uranium hexafluoride conversion.

NRC inspectors have identified additional technical issues that require more time than originally anticipated to complete the inspection and review. The NRC staff believes these emerging issues should be completely analyzed and resolved before finishing the readiness review inspection, and agency officials felt postponing the meeting was the most appropriate course of action.

"We want to ensure that all the technical issues have been reviewed and resolved before we complete the inspection," said NRC Division of Fuel Facility Inspection Director Joe Shea. "We will reschedule the meeting when we are satisfied we have accomplished those goals."

The NFS license amendment for the new line requires a review to verify that preparations are complete and adequate before the company can begin operation of that process. The line will convert uranium hexafluoride into either uranium oxide or uranyl nitrate. Those compounds would then be either transferred to the applicable NFS customer or used in other NFS lines to process fuel for commercial nuclear use.

The new line was authorized by the NRC on May 11 in the form of a license amendment. An Environmental Assessment prepared in conjunction with the license amendment concluded that the new line would not have a significant impact on the environment. The company will not be allowed to operate the new line until it meets all NRC requirements.

The NRC will issue another news release when the meeting is rescheduled. The new meeting notice as well as additional information about the meeting will also be posted on the NRC web site at www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/index.cfm.

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