



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 10-200

November 3, 2010

LICENSING BOARD TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENT NOV. 17 IN ROCKVILLE, MD., ON LEVY COUNTY NEW NUCLEAR REACTOR APPLICATION

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) will hear oral argument regarding a hearing in the Levy County Combined License (COL) proceeding on Wednesday, Nov. 17, in Rockville, Md. The ASLB Panel is the independent body within the NRC that issues decisions for the NRC when there is a challenge to proposed licensing or enforcement actions.

Oral arguments will begin at 9 a.m. EST on Nov. 17, in the ASLB Hearing Room, room T3B45 of the NRC's Two White Flint building, 11545 Rockville Pike in Rockville. The session is open for public observation, but participation will be limited to the parties admitted to the proceeding (several public interest groups, the applicant – Progress Energy Florida – and NRC staff involved in the proceeding). Early arrival is suggested to allow for security screening for all members of the public interested in attending. NRC policy prohibits signs, banners, posters or displays in the hearing room.

Progress Energy submitted a COL application on July 30, 2008, seeking permission to construct and operate two new nuclear reactors at the Levy County site near Crystal River, Fla. The ASLB granted intervenor status in the proceeding to the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, the Ecology Party of Florida, and the Green Party of Florida. The groups have asked the Board to compel Progress Energy to release information regarding its groundwater modeling. The ASLB panel will hear oral argument on several points, including: the exact nature of the modeling sought; how the NRC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement relies on the modeling; what documentation exists regarding the model's assumptions, input, output and interpretation; and whether the information and modeling must be disclosed under NRC regulations.

Documents related to the Levy County COL application are available on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/levy.html>. Documents pertaining to the ASLB proceeding are available in the agency's electronic hearing docket at: <http://ehd1.nrc.gov/EHD>.

More information about the ASLB can be found at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/aslbfuncdesc.html>.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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