

No. 13-014

March 7, 2013

NRC ANNOUNCES HEARING OPPORTUNITY ON LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is announcing an opportunity to request a hearing on the proposed renewal of the operating licenses for the Tennessee Valley Authority's Sequoyah nuclear power plant.

The Sequoyah plant has two pressurized-water reactors and is located in Soddy Daisy, Tenn., about 16 miles northeast of Chattanooga. The current operating licenses expire Sept. 17, 2020, for Unit 1 and Sept. 15, 2021, for Unit 2. TVA submitted an application in January to renew the licenses for an additional 20 years.

The NRC staff has completed its "acceptance review" and determined that the application includes sufficient information to begin the full safety and environmental reviews. At this time, members of the public who may be affected by the license renewal can request an adjudicatory hearing before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Detailed instructions on how to request a hearing are included in a *Federal Register* notice published March 5. The deadline to request a hearing is May 6.

The Sequoyah license renewal application is available on the NRC website.

The license renewal process can be completed in 22 months, but may take longer if a hearing is granted or if site-specific technical issues must be resolved.

The Commission decided last August that the agency will not make final licensing decisions on new reactors or reactor license renewals until the NRC completes its waste confidence rule and environmental impact statement, due by September 2014. However, licensing reviews are to continue up to the point of final licensing. Information about the waste confidence rule and environmental study is available on the <u>NRC website</u>.

Information about the license renewal review process is also available on the <u>NRC</u> website.

News releases are available through a free *Listserv* subscription or by clicking on the EMAIL UPDATES link on the NRC homepage (<u>www.nrc.gov</u>). E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website. For the latest news, follow the NRC on <u>www.twitter.com/NRCgov</u>.