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COMMISSION GRANTS GROUP MORE TIME TO FILE
CONTENTIONS IN CALVERT CLIFFS LICENSE RENEWAL CASE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted the National Whistleblower Center (NWC) until September 30 to file proposed contentions to be litigated in a hearing on the renewal of the operating licenses for both units of the Calvert Cliffs nuclear plant at Lusby, Md.

Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. (BG&E) applied to the NRC in April for a 20-year extension of the Calvert Cliffs operating licenses, which now expire in 2014 and 2016 respectively. NWC petitioned for a hearing in August, and its request was referred to an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. That board gave NWC a deadline of September 11 for filing issues to be litigated, an action which NWC appealed to the Commission. NWC had sought an extension of time until November.

In an order issued Thursday (September 17), the Commission gave NWC until the end of September to file its contentions. The Commission specified that any contentions brought by NWC must meet NRC acceptability standards, and further stated that the Licensing Board "should be prepared to terminate the adjudication promptly should NWC submit no admissible contentions."

The Commission said its action in giving NWC more time suggests no dissatisfaction with the Licensing Board's overall handling of the case. A recent Commission order directed an expedited handling of any hearing in the Calvert Cliffs case and set a goal of resolving all issues within 30 months.

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EDITORS: The Commission order will be posted on the NRC Internet web page.