



NRC NEWS

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No. 07-170

December 20, 2007

NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN HEARING ON NEW REACTOR APPLICATION FOR SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT SITE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today announced the opportunity to participate in the hearing on a Combined License (COL) application for two new reactors at the South Texas Project site near Bay City, Texas.

NRG Energy and South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company submitted the COL application and associated information in a Sept. 20 letter. The application seeks approval to build and operate two Advanced Boiling Water Reactors (ABWR) at the site, approximately 12 miles southwest of Bay City. The ABWR is a 1,300 MWe design the NRC certified in 1997, and is currently in use overseas.

The NRC staff has determined that the application contains sufficient information for the agency to formally "docket," or file, the application and begin its technical review. The applicants must provide more information, however, before the NRC can establish a complete review schedule.

Docketing the application does not preclude additional requests for information as the review proceeds; nor does it indicate whether the Commission will issue the license. The South Texas Project COL application is posted on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/south-texas-project.html>.

A notice of opportunity to intervene will be published shortly in the *Federal Register*. The deadline for petitioning to intervene is 60 days after publication of the notice. Petitions may be filed by anyone whose interest may be affected by the proposed license, who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding, and who meets criteria set out in the NRC's regulations. Background information regarding the hearing process was provided by NRC staff to members of the public during a public information session held in June in Bay City.

A petition to intervene must be electronically submitted in a timely manner to the NRC's Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) system. The petition to intervene must be filed in accordance with the NRC's E-Filing Rule that appeared in the *Federal Register* on Aug. 28.

Additional guidance and instructions regarding electronic submissions to the NRC EIE system is available on the NRC web pages at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html> .

The NRC is currently conducting acceptance reviews on COL applications for the Bellefonte site in Alabama, the North Anna site in Virginia and the Lee site in South Carolina. Information about the new reactor licensing process can be found on the NRC Web site here: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html> .

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