



NRC NEWS

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NRC ACCEPTS APPLICATION FOR NEW REACTOR AT NORTH ANNA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has accepted for review a combined license (COL) application for a new reactor at the North Anna site in central Virginia. Dominion Virginia Power's application, submitted Nov. 27, 2007, is the fourth COL application the agency has accepted for review.

"The NRC staff has concluded the application meets our requirements for a full review, and they have started their environmental and safety analyses," said Bill Borchardt, Director of the NRC's Office of New Reactors. "We expect this work, as well as a hearing on the application, to continue into early 2011."

The application, minus proprietary or security-related details, is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col.html>. Dominion seeks approval to build and operate an Economic and Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) at the site, approximately 40 miles northwest of Richmond.

The ESBWR is a 1,500 MWe design currently under NRC review for possible certification. The staff will consider any findings concerning the design in its review of the North Anna application. Information on the ESBWR application is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/design-cert/esbwr.html>.

Docketing the North Anna application does not indicate whether the Commission will approve or reject the request. The NRC will shortly issue in the *Federal Register* a notice of opportunity to participate, or "intervene," in a hearing on the application. Petitions to intervene in a hearing may be filed within 60 days of the notice, by anyone whose interest may be affected by the proposed license and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding.

The NRC is currently reviewing COL applications for the South Texas Project site in Texas, the Bellefonte site in Alabama and the Calvert Cliffs site in Maryland. The agency is also conducting an acceptance check for a COL application on the Lee site in South Carolina. The agency expects an additional 14 applications in 2008. Information about the new reactor licensing process is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html>.

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