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NRC Announces Hearing Opportunity for LaSalle License Renewal; Public Meetings March 10 to Discuss Environmental Review

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has announced the opportunity to request a hearing on an application to renew the operating licenses of the LaSalle County Station nuclear power plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Marseilles, Ill.

The agency has also begun work on an environmental impact statement for the license renewal, and announced its intention to hold public meetings near the plant on March 10.

The LaSalle plant has two boiling-water reactors operated by Exelon Generation Co. Exelon filed an application dated Dec. 9 seeking to renew LaSalle's operating licenses for an additional 20 years. The reactors are currently licensed to operate through April 17, 2022, for Unit 1, and Dec. 16, 2023, for Unit 2. The NRC staff has determined the application contains sufficient information for the agency to formally docket the application, and begin its technical and environmental reviews. Docketing the application does not preclude requesting additional information as the reviews proceed, and it does not indicate whether the Commission will renew the licenses.

The NRC staff will conduct two public meetings on March 10 to describe the process of its environmental review and accept comments from members of the public on the potential scope of that review. The meetings will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at the LaSalle County Emergency Operations Center, 711 East Etna Road, in Ottawa, Ill.

The hearing opportunity and environmental reviews were announced in separate notices published Feb. 3 in the Federal Register. The hearing opportunity notice includes detailed instructions for requesting a hearing through the NRC's E-filing system. The deadline for filing petitions is April 6. The second notice provides detail about the environmental "scoping" process and the public meetings. April 6 is also the deadline for submitting comments on the scoping process.

The LaSalle license renewal application and information about the license renewal process are available on the NRC website. Copies of the license renewal application are available at these public libraries: Reddick Public Library District, 1010 Canal St., Ottawa, Ill.; Marseilles Public Library, 155 E. Bluff St., Marseilles, Ill.; and Seneca Public Library District, 210 N. Main St., Seneca, Ill.