



NRC NEWS

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CONTACT: Ken Clark (404)562-4416/e-mail: kmc2@nrc.gov
Roger D. Hannah (404)562-4417/e-mail: rdh1@nrc.gov

PREHEARING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED ON MCGUIRE AND CATAWBA NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold a prehearing conference on December 18 and 19 in Charlotte, North Carolina, in a proceeding involving an application to renew the operating licenses for both nuclear units at the McGuire nuclear power plant in North Carolina and both nuclear units at the Catawba nuclear power plant in South Carolina.

Duke Energy Corporation is seeking the license renewals, which would permit the units to operate an additional 20 years beyond their current license expiration dates. McGuire Units 1 and 2, and Catawba Units 1 and 2 currently have operating licenses set to expire in 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2026, respectively. The Nuclear Information and Resource Service and the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League have petitioned to intervene in the license renewal proceeding.

At the conference, the Licensing Board will hear arguments on the standing of the petitioners to participate in the proceeding and the admissibility of their contentions challenging various aspects of the renewal application. The Board will issue its decision on standing and contentions in late January 2002.

The Licensing Board is made up of Administrative Judge Ann Marshall Young, Chair; and Administrative Judges Dr. Charles N. Kelber and Lester S. Rubenstein.

The conference will be held on December 18 and 19, in Courtroom 2 of the U.S. Courthouse, 401 W. Trade Street, Charlotte, North Carolina, commencing at 9:00 a.m. each morning and continuing into the evening as required.

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