



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 05-154 (revised)

November 10, 2005

NRC CONSIDERS CLARIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW REACTOR LICENSING

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering revisions to clarify its regulations concerning the licensing and approval processes for nuclear power plants.

The changes would address requirements that apply to licensing processes such as Early Site Permits (ESP), Design Certifications and Combined Licenses. Experience gained in the NRC's review of ESP and Design Certification applications, as well as substantial public comments, led to the proposed rule changes.

"This rule change would clarify the relationship between Part 50 of our regulations and the processes available today in Part 52," said David Matthews, Director of the Division of New Reactor Licensing in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. "These changes would make the NRC's licensing process more effective and efficient for future applicants."

The proposed rule is described in a staff paper to the Commissioners, available on the NRC Web site at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2005/>. The proposed rule would supersede a 2003 proposal that the agency would withdraw. If approved, the new proposed rule would be published in the *Federal Register* for public comment. For more information contact NRC staff members Jerry Wilson or Nanette Gilles by phone at 301-415-3145 and 301-415-1180 respectively, or via e-mail at jnw@nrc.gov and nvg@nrc.gov respectively.

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