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# NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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## **NRC TO MEET FEB. 21 IN PORT GIBSON, MISS., TO DISCUSS REVIEW PROCESS FOR EXPECTED NEW REACTOR APPLICATION**

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct a public meeting in Port Gibson, Miss., on Thursday, Feb. 21, to discuss how the agency will review an expected Combined License (COL) application for a new reactor at the Grand Gulf site, about 25 miles south of Vicksburg. The prospective applicant, Entergy, has told the NRC it intends to apply this year for a license to build and operate an Economic and Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) at Grand Gulf.

“The NRC is already reviewing a few COL applications, and Grand Gulf is the first of about 14 applications we’re expecting this year,” said David Matthews, Director of the Division of New Reactor Licensing in the NRC’s Office of New Reactors. “We’re going to work with residents in and around Port Gibson to help them understand the process and the valuable information they can give us.”

The meeting will be held in Port Gibson City Hall, 1005 College St., from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. NRC staff presentations will describe the overall Combined License review process, which includes safety and environmental assessments, as well as how the public can participate in the process. The NRC will host an open house for an hour prior to the meeting so members of the public have the opportunity to talk informally with agency staff.

A COL, if issued, provides authorization from the NRC to construct and, with conditions, operate a nuclear power plant at a specific site and in accordance with laws and regulations. More information on the NRC’s new reactor licensing process is available on the agency’s Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html> .

The NRC is currently reviewing the ESBWR, a 1,500 MWe natural-circulation boiling water reactor incorporating passive safety systems, for possible certification. Information on the design is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/design-cert/esbwr.html> .

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