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NRC ACCEPTS APPLICATION FOR NEW REACTOR AT CALVERT CLIFFS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has accepted for review the safety analysis portion of a combined license (COL) application for an Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant near Lusby, Md. The agency had accepted the application's environmental report in January.

UniStar submitted the safety analysis and related information on March 17, and submitted the environmental report July 13, 2007, along with supplemental information on Dec. 14, 2007. 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>.

Unistar is applying for a license to build and operate an EPR at the Calvert Cliffs site, approximately 40 miles south of Annapolis. The EPR is a large pressurized water reactor of evolutionary design, with a design output of approximately 1,600 MWe. The EPR's designer, Areva, filed an application Dec. 11, 2007 to certify the design, which is currently under construction at the Olkiluoto site in Finland and in Flammaville, France. The EPR application, minus proprietary or security-related details, is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/design-cert/epr.html>.

Docketing the Calvert Cliffs application does not indicate whether the Commission will approve or reject the request. The docket number established for this application is 52-016. The NRC will publish in the near future a notice of opportunity to intervene in the adjudicatory hearing required for this 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.

In addition to Calvert Cliffs, the NRC is reviewing COL applications for the South Texas Project site in Texas, the North Anna site in Virginia, the Bellefonte site in Alabama, the Shearon Harris site in North Carolina, the Grand Gulf site in Mississippi and the Lee site in South Carolina. Detailed information about the new reactor licensing process can be found on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactor-licensing.html>.

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