



# NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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## **NRC SEEKS COMMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION FOR PROPOSED NORTH ANNA NUCLEAR REACTOR, PUBLIC MEETING FEB. 3**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on its evaluation of the environmental impacts of issuing a Combined License (COL) for a third nuclear reactor at the North Anna site in Louisa County, Va., about 40 miles northwest of Richmond.

The preliminary evaluation is contained in NUREG-1917, "Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Combined License for North Anna Nuclear Power Station Unit 3." The draft report supplements the EIS developed for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at North Anna. The staff issued the North Anna ESP in November 2007, resolving many environmental issues related to the impacts of a potential additional reactor at the site.

The latest evaluation focuses on additional environmental impact information contained in Dominion's COL application. The NRC staff also considered public input gathered during an earlier comment period, including at a public meeting on April 16, 2008. The NRC will discuss the latest evaluation in a public meeting Tuesday, Feb. 3 in Mineral, Va., and will accept written comments until March 20.

If approved, the COL would give Dominion permission to build the reactor and (with specific conditions) operate it in accordance with established laws and regulations. The NRC staff's preliminary conclusions in the draft evaluation include a finding that no environmentally preferable or obviously superior sites have been identified, and that any adverse environmental impacts from possible site preparation and preliminary construction activities at North Anna could be redressed.

On Feb. 3, the NRC staff will hold a meeting from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. to obtain comments on the draft EIS at the Louisa County High School, 757 Davis Highway in Mineral. The formal meeting will be transcribed and the staff will host an informal discussion starting at 5 p.m. NRC staff members will answer questions and explain the new reactor licensing process during this informal session, but no official comments on the EIS will be accepted.

For planning purposes, anyone interested in attending the Feb. 3 meeting is encouraged to pre-register no later than Jan. 28, by contacting Alicia Williamson of the NRC by telephone at

(800) 368-5642, extension 1878, or by e-mail to [NORTHANNA.COLEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:NORTHANNA.COLEIS@nrc.gov). Requests for special equipment or accommodations at the meeting must be submitted by Jan. 23, using either of the methods above. Interested persons may also register to speak within 15 minutes of the start of the meeting. Time for individual comments at the meetings may be limited to accommodate all speakers.

Written comments on the draft EIS should be submitted either by mail, postmarked no later than March 20, to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail (sent no later than March 20) to [NORTHANNA.COLEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:NORTHANNA.COLEIS@nrc.gov).

The draft EIS and related documents are available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. The draft EIS may also be viewed on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/north-anna.html>. In addition, people can view printed versions of the draft EIS at the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library in Mineral; the Hanover Branch Library in Hanover, Va.; the Orange County Library in Orange, Va.; the Salem Church Library in Fredericksburg, Va.; and the C. Melvin Snow Memorial Branch Library in Spotsylvania, Va.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the NRC staff will consider and address the comments provided. The staff expects to issue a final EIS on the environmental acceptability of a COL at the North Anna site by the end of 2009.

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