



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region III

2443 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

No. III-11-001

Contacts:

Viktoria Mitlyng 630-829-9662

Prema Chandrathil 630-829-9663

February 8, 2011

E-Mail: opa3@nrc.gov

Web site: www.nrc.gov

Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

NRC SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS ZION NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DECOMMISSIONING

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has scheduled two public meetings Tuesday, Feb. 22, to discuss the agency's actions to ensure the safe decommissioning of the Zion Nuclear Power Station. The two-unit plant, located in Zion, Ill., roughly 40 miles north of Chicago, ceased operation in 1997.

Decommissioning activities at the plant will be carried out by ZionSolutions, a subsidiary of EnergySolutions created to manage the decommissioning work at Zion and based in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The two meetings will be held at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., in the Illinois Beach Resort & Conference Center, One Lake Front Drive, in Zion. The public is encouraged to participate in the meetings, which are tailored to provide members of the public with an opportunity to have a dialogue with NRC representatives. NRC staff will also be available for questions and discussion after the meetings.

During the Jan. 25 meeting, NRC staff will talk to the public about NRC inspections, independent surveys and other activities to ensure the safety of the local community, workers at the site and the environment. The NRC will address issues of concern to the public, such as how people can have confidence that spent nuclear fuel at Zion will be stored safely. At the end of the decommissioning process, NRC will make sure the area is decontaminated to a level that permits release of the property and termination of the NRC license.

Zion Unit 1 operated from 1973 to 1997; Unit 2 operated from 1974 to 1996. After a nuclear plant is permanently shut down, decommissioning has to take place within 60 years of the shut down date.

In 2008, plant owner Exelon Corp. submitted a request to the NRC to transfer licensed ownership to ZionSolutions. The NRC reviewed the license transfer request, making sure that the company had proper staffing and expertise to safely implement decommissioning activities and that there would be sufficient funds to fully decommission the plant. NRC approved the license transfer in Sept. 2010.

###

NRC news releases are available through a free list serve subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>. The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website.