



Powering Our Community
for Today and Tomorrow

Limerick Generating Station The NRC License Renewal Process Fact Sheet

Nuclear energy plants in the United States are licensed to operate for 40 years. The 40-year license-term reflects the amortization period generally used by the electric utility companies for large capital investments. It is not based on safety, technical or environmental issues. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 permits nuclear energy plants to renew their 40-year operating license for an additional 20 years.

Each nuclear energy plant is licensed on a given set of requirements, depending primarily on the type of plant.

The Application

The license renewal application is submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and includes environmental and technical information in compliance with federal regulations.

- **Notice of Receipt of License Renewal Application.** Approximately four weeks after the application is submitted, the NRC publishes in the *Federal Register* a “Notice of Receipt” of the license application. This notice (1) indicates that the NRC has received the license renewal application; (2) lets the public know how they can obtain a copy of the application; and (3) states that the opportunity to request a hearing will be discussed in a future *Federal Register* notice.
- **Notice of Acceptance for Docketing and Notice for Opportunity for a Hearing.** Approximately four weeks later, the NRC will publish another *Federal Register* notice docketing the application. Among other things, this notice will provide that, within the following 60 days, any member of the public may file a written request for a hearing. Additionally, a plant specific review schedule is established.
- **Informal Public Meeting.** Fairly early in the review process, the NRC staff will hold a public meeting near Limerick Generating Station to explain the license renewal process to the public. Members of the public are allowed to ask questions of the NRC.

The Review Process

The NRC staff reviews the application on two parallel “tracks” - a safety review and an environmental review.

1. **Safety Review.** The NRC staff performs a safety review of the information provided in the application and draws conclusions about whether the plant can be operated safely during the period of extended operation. The NRC staff will prepare a Safety Evaluation Report documenting its conclusions.
 - **Audit Activities.** NRC personnel conduct onsite reviews known as Scoping and Screening Methodologies, Aging Management Reviews (AMR) and Aging Management Program (AMP) Audits during the first several months of the application review.

(Continued on back)

LIMERICK GENERATING STATION

CLEAN • SAFE • RELIABLE

www.exeloncorp.com/limerick

Exelon
Nuclear

- **Inspection Activities.** NRC personnel will spend two to three additional weeks at Limerick performing scoping and verification activities of Limerick's aging management program for its plant systems. A public exit meeting is held after this inspection. The NRC Region 1 Regional Administrator will issue a letter to the NRC Headquarters with recommendations concerning the license renewal application.
 - At about the time the original operating license would have expired, NRC Region 1 inspectors perform a commitment verification inspection to ensure the plant's readiness to enter the period of extended operation.
 - **Review of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS).** The ACRS will review the license renewal application, the inspection reports, and the NRC staff's final Safety Evaluation Report, and provide its view as to whether the license renewal application should be approved.
2. **Environmental Review.** The NRC performs plant-specific reviews of the environmental impacts of the plant's operation during the period of extended operation in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This review proceeds on a separate track from the safety review.
- **Environmental Scoping.** Approximately three months after the application is submitted, the NRC staff will conduct a public scoping meeting near Limerick for the public to provide comments or suggestions on the environmental issues the NRC should review. The public may also provide written comments.
 - **Site Audit Activities.** The NRC staff will conduct a site audit of the environmental information provided by Exelon Nuclear in the license renewal application, and will also take a tour of the entire site. The NRC will also visit members of the public to obtain additional information to be reviewed.
 - **Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).** Based on the environmental report submitted by Exelon Nuclear and information obtained independently, the NRC will prepare a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) in which the NRC determines if the environmental impacts of license renewal are acceptable.
 - **Public Comment on draft SEIS.** Once the NRC staff has completed the draft SEIS, the NRC will publish the draft SEIS and request public comment. Comments can be made in writing or can be made at the public meetings held by the NRC.
 - **Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).** After all comments are addressed, the NRC will publish a final SEIS that provides a recommendation regarding the environmental impacts of license renewal.
3. **NRC Decision on the Application.** A license renewal application will be approved if the NRC determines that the appropriate aging management and environmental management programs have been established to provide reasonable assurance that the plant will be safely operated for the extended operating period and that environmental impacts are acceptable. The NRC's determination is based on the recommendations provided in the Safety Evaluation Report, the SEIS, ACRS report and the Regional Administrator's letter. It is expected that the NRC staff will complete its review of the application within 30 months if a hearing is required, or within 22 months if no hearing is required.