

2007 National Radiological Emergency Preparedness (NREP) Conference, Inc.

NEW REACTORS

General Session - Panel: May 03, 2007; 10:45a-11:45a

(DOE: 10 min; NRC: 15 min; DHS/FEMA: 10 min; State: 10 min; Q&A: 15 min)

Panelists: Kenneth Wade (DOE), Kevin Williams (NRC), Conrad Burnside (DHS/FEMA), Stephen Clark (State of GA)

Panel coordinator: Prosanta Chowdhury (NRC)

Summary of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC):

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 serves as the catalyst for the increased interest in new reactors. The NRC staff anticipates numerous applications and provided a chart with an estimate by year of a snapshot of potential applications, design certifications, and hearings. This chart is available on the NRC public website. The NRC has approved the ABWR and AP1000 designs and we are currently evaluating the ESBWR. We anticipate that we will receive designs for the EPW and USAPWR. If a design is received in conjunction with an application they will be reviewed in parallel. The process allows for designs to be approved using the "design certification approach," one review/approval for use for each design with the exception of non-design specifics. Emergency Preparedness is not approved in this manner. We have 4 known greenfield sites (Amarillo, Bellefonte, Lee, and Levy County) and 5 potential greenfield sites.

The process can be summarized by:

NRC Accept Application (early site permit/design certification/combine operating license)

Public Meeting Near Site

ADAMS and Federal Register Notice (*publicly available*)

Safety Evaluation Report (*publicly available*)

Draft / Final Environmental Impact Statement (*public comment*)

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) (*open to public*)

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) (*public participation*)

Issues resolved at the early site permit or design certification stage are precluded from reconsideration at the combined operating stage. The early site permit is independent of plant design, valid for 10-20 years, and is renewable. The purpose is to resolve safety, emergency preparedness, and environmental issues early in the process.

The regulatory process requires that the applicant describe the unique physical characteristics that pose significant impediments to developing the emergency plan. The applicant can choose to describe major features as stated in NUREG-0654 supplement 2 or provide a complete and integrated plan. The applicant cannot use major features alone. In addition, the applicant must describe contacts and arrangements with agencies with offsite responsibilities or obtain certificates from these agencies that state the plans are practicable, commitments to further develop plans including field demonstrations, and commitment to execute responsibilities. The impact on the states is they will have to provide the above information.

The NRC has partnered with FEMA to establish a working group to ensure that timely review of all aspects of emergency preparedness. Additional guidance is provided in the form of COL Application Guidance (Regulatory Guide 1.206) and the Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800).

The Point of contact for new reactors for emergency preparedness is Dan Barss 301-415-2922 or dmb1@nrc.gov.