

Knox,Louise [CEAA]

From: Knox,Louise [CEAA]
Sent: November 28, 2005 10:21 AM
To: 'Julio Lagos'
Subject: RE: licensing of new nuclear power reactors in Canada

CNSC contact as a starting point:

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-----Original Message-----

From: Julio Lagos [<mailto:jlago@highparkgroup.com>]
Sent: November 25, 2005 4:25 PM
To: Knox,Louise [CEAA]
Cc: Burgess,Steve [CEAA]; Young,Bruce [CEAA]
Subject: RE: licensing of new nuclear power reactors in Canada

19/12/2005

Thanks Louise, this helps a lot.

Who would you recommend I speak with at CNSC?

Julio

-----Original Message-----

From: Knox,Louise [CEAA] [mailto:Louise.Knox@ceaa-acee.gc.ca]

Sent: Friday, November 25, 2005 9:04 AM

To: Julio Lagos

Cc: Burgess,Steve [CEAA]; Young,Bruce [CEAA]

Subject: RE: licensing of new nuclear power reactors in Canada

Julio, I'll be glad to discuss this with you. Under CEAA the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), which is the entity issuing the license, also has responsibility for the environmental assessment. Likely a new nuclear facility would require a comprehensive study, which gives the Minister of the Environment involvement, and gives the Agency a role that goes beyond the coordination role we play for screenings. Even more likely, the CNSC would ask the Minister of the Environment to refer such a project to a review panel, which could be a joint panel (CEAA-CNSC) or could be simply a CEAA panel. I think the best assumption is that there would be a panel for a new nuclear project.

A panel review can take as little as 13 months and as long as several years. I think the estimates you have had to date very likely reflect a process in which much of the siting, planning, and conceptual design, if not detailed design, would be done in tandem with the panel process, so it's hard to say whether it's the planning itself or the EA which takes the time. In addition, judging on past experience, one can expect that any new nuclear facility would evoke questions of energy policy (the broader question as to whether further investments should be made in this technology) and would evoke very strong reactions from those who are troubled by the long duration of toxicity of waste. Even if there is a separate process (and there may well be) for the disposal of used fuel, and even if the disposal question is not within the scope of the assessment (which in itself is controversial and not guaranteed to be acceptable to a panel) one can expect a high level of public interest and strong opinions. I'm sure I'm not telling you anything you don't know. Interesting, though, that people would say that the main issue is the public hearings. I would say the main issue is the long life of the radioactivity in the waste, and that the need for hearings is a function of the degree to which this is troubling to Canadians.

The CNSC may be in a position to provide you with more insight into the timing question. Let me know if you need the name of a contact there.

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19/12/2005

-----Original Message-----

From: Julio Lagos [mailto:jlago@highparkgroup.com]
Sent: November 24, 2005 5:27 PM
To: Knox, Louise [CEAA]
Subject: licensing of new nuclear power reactors in Canada

Louise,

I am looking into the licensing of new nuclear reactors under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act and wanted to ask you about the environmental assessment process.

I understand that the licensing process under the NSCA has three stages: license to prepare the site, license to construct and license to operate the facility. The licensing application (s.24.2 of NSCA) then triggers an environmental assessment under CEAA.

From your experience and knowledge of the federal EA process, how long does the CEAA process for a nuclear reactor generally take? I have been told ten or more years from the filing of the application to the in-service-date of the plant, with the main issue being public hearings under the EA process.

I'd appreciate any thoughts you might have. I can be reached at 416-535-8742 if you prefer to discuss.

Thanks
Julio

19/12/2005

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