



NRC NEWS

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No: 22-038
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September 12, 2022

NRC Renews Operating License of Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Facility

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a renewed operating license for Westinghouse Electric Co.'s Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility in Hopkins, South Carolina. The renewed license authorizes the facility to continue operations through Sept. 12, 2062.

The Columbia facility produces nuclear fuel for use in commercial nuclear power reactors. The license was issued by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1969 and was last renewed by the NRC in 2007.

Renewal follows completion of the NRC staff's safety and environmental reviews of the application. The [final environmental impact statement](#) was published July 29, cataloguing "small" impacts on most resources, and "small to moderate" impacts on groundwater and waste generation during decommissioning. The final safety evaluation report was published today and will be available through the NRC's [webpage on the Westinghouse facility](#).

The NRC safety review concluded that the company's programs are adequate to ensure safe operation of the facility for the 40-year period. The staff did not identify safety risks or new processes or technologies that might introduce new safety concerns. The staff also considered the company's safety performance and efforts to mitigate onsite contamination, with oversight by South Carolina, before renewing the license.