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**For Immediate Release**

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**60 Day Clock For Nuclear Opponents Starts Ticking;**  
**Luminant Moves Forward Toward Expansion of Comanche Peak Nuclear Plant**  
*Reactor Design Not Ready for Primetime*

AUSTIN, TX The NRC posted notice today on the federal register of the application of Luminant to build two reactors at the Comanche Peak nuclear plant site, southwest of Fort Worth. Citizens now have only 60 days to prepare and present their legal case in opposition.

The reactor design (US-APWR) has not been approved by the NRC and it has never been built anywhere in the world. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. submitted the US-Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (US-APWR) for design certification on December 31, 2007, but the review will take the NRC at least until 2011 to complete.

"This fast-tracked combined construction and operating license process was rationalized based on the assumption that new reactors would only use pre-certified designs, but the Comanche Peak reactor design is not approved yet. Not only does this put a huge burden on the public to quickly learn what's happening and become involved within only 60 days, but it also puts pressure on the NRC to rubberstamp designs that should have extra scrutiny," said Smith.

"The streamlined process is designed to cut citizens out and limit public involvement in the licensing of two reactors that could cost \$22 billion before cost overruns," said Karen Hadden, executive director of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition. "It makes the fast-tracking of TXU's coal plants in Texas look slow."

Comanche Peak Unit One ran ten times over budget and was years late coming online. An untested reactor design increases the likelihood of similar problems occurring again and soaring rate hikes that would result.

“If safety was a real concern, the three processes all occurring simultaneously would be taken one at a time. This rush increases risks of safety oversight and problems from faulty design and construction” said Hadden. “Reactor designs should be analyzed first, and if and when the NRC deems them adequate, a construction license application should be allowed. If the plant has no major construction flaws after completion, then the operating license should be decided.”

This federal notice posting comes as Congress debates whether to give more subsidies to the nuclear industry in the stimulus bill. The US Senate included in its economic stimulus package a handout of \$50 billion to the nuclear industry, subsidies in the form of federal loan guarantees. The House did not include these handouts which would “bail in” a fifty year old industry that still can’t stand on its own, remaining dependent on federal subsidies because investors are wary of the huge liability and risks.

The Nuclear Information and Resource Service has organized nationwide and in five days generated more than 5,600 letters to the Senate and hundreds of phone calls; hand-delivered to the Senate a letter signed by 243 grassroots organizations, small businesses and musicians including Bonnie Raitt, Graham Nash and Paul Winter.

The NRC Federal Register notice provides information regarding the public's opportunity to request participation in the hearing regarding the Comanche Peak COL. The deadline for filing a request to participate is April 6.

Citizens must develop their contentions during this extremely short time period, even though major factors could change, including the design of the reactors.

The federal register posting can easily be found online at [www.NukeFreeTexas.org](http://www.NukeFreeTexas.org), where a series of articles detailing the history of the existing Comanche Peak reactors is available.

The notice is online at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-2455.pdf> on the federal register.

The notice is entitled "Luminant Generation Company LLC; Application for the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant Units 3 and 4; Notice of Order, Hearing, and Opportunity to Petition for Leave to Intervene." This federal register notice was published as Volume 74, pages 6177-6180.

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