



## **For Immediate Release**

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## **NRC Dockets First Construction & Operating License Application for Mitsubishi's US-APWR**

Washington, DC, December 3, 2008 – The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has docketed the first Combined License Application (COLA) for the US-APWR, setting the stage for other U.S. utilities to apply to build the advanced nuclear power plant.

The docketing of the COLA submitted by Texas-based power generation company Luminant in September indicates that the project to build two new plants at the company's Comanche Peak nuclear facility southwest of Dallas is making progress. By docketing an application, the NRC indicates that the application is sufficient to start review. The NRC then begins the lengthy and comprehensive review process that includes site visits, public hearings, requests for additional information and safety evaluation.

"This is the COLA that other utilities will reference when they submit their own applications to build the US-APWR design," said Frank Gillespie, Senior Vice President of New Plant Technology for Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems, Inc. (MNES). "Having a reference COLA will make the application process much easier for other utilities when they submit their own applications for our advanced reactor design."

The US-APWR, with a rated output of 1,700 megawatts (MWe), is capable of generating enough electricity to power 875,000 average Texas homes. It is also one of the world's most economical designs, requiring less acreage than competing designs and less steel and concrete to build.

Mitsubishi submitted a design certification application to the NRC in December 2007 for the US-APWR. The agency docketed the application in February 2008, and the company expects to receive final safety evaluation reports in the second half of 2011.

The design was developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), the parent company of MNES, based on the technologies for a 1,538 MWe APWR now in the regulatory approval stage to be built at Tsuruga Power Station Units 3 and 4 of the Japan Atomic Power Company. The US-APWR has a slightly larger core, new evolutionary safety systems and other advanced design elements. To date, MHI has built 23 PWR-based reactors now operating in Japan, with the 24<sup>th</sup> under construction. MHI also provides a wide range of reactor maintenance services to plants once they are in operation.

In building nuclear plants, Mitsubishi uses an innovative modular system, building a significant portion of a plant offsite and then assembling the components at the site with a large “super crane.” The same construction technique will be used for the plants the company builds for U.S. utilities. In addition, the company will use U.S.-based suppliers and construction companies for a wide range of components and services in building the new plants.

MHI established MNES in 2006 as its U.S. subsidiary to offer the US-APWR to U.S. utilities. Many MNES employees are engineers with extensive experience in nuclear reactor design, operation and maintenance. In addition to its Washington headquarters, the company has established an engineering office in Arlington, VA, and a project office in Dallas, TX, to work on the Luminant project. The company also has an office in Pittsburgh which provides services and components to U.S. utilities with existing nuclear power plants.

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#### **About Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems**

Mitsubishi Nuclear Energy Systems Inc. (MNES), based in Washington, D.C., offers nuclear power plant technology, services and components to U.S. utilities. Established in 2006, the company has offices in Arlington, VA, Dallas, TX, and Pittsburgh, PA.

[www.mnes-us.com](http://www.mnes-us.com).

#### **About Mitsubishi Heavy Industries**

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is one of the world’s leading heavy machinery manufacturers, with consolidated sales of 3,203 billion yen (US\$31.9 billion\*) in fiscal 2007 (year ended March 31, 2008). MHI’s diverse lineup of products and services encompasses shipbuilding, power plants, chemical plants, environmental equipment, steel structures, industrial and general machinery, aircraft, space rocketry and air-conditioning systems. [www.mhi.co.jp](http://www.mhi.co.jp).

\*U.S. dollar amounts are translated from yen, for convenience only, at the rate of ¥100.19=US\$1, the exchange rate prevailing at March 31, 2008.