

NRC CHAIRMAN: CONGRESS FUNDING COULD SLOW NUCLEAR PLANT APPLICATIONS

WASHINGTON-- NRC Chairman Dale Klein today announced an application from TVA to build two new nuclear plants and said he is ready for a flood of further applications expected this year and next. But he said that the agency's work will be pushed back by a year or more if Congress does not adequately fund the agency in 2008. He spoke at a USEA Energy Newsmaker, carried exclusively on [Energy Policy TV](#). Video is available at no cost on Energy Policy TV's [USEA Newsmaker Channel](#).

"I think the nuclear renaissance is here," Chairman Klein said at today's Energy Newsmaker.

Klein said he expects the NRC to receive three more new applications this year, and 10 to 12 more in 2008.

The ongoing congressional tussle over setting the federal budget for fiscal year 2008 could hurt that renaissance, however, Klein said. It would be "devastating" to NRC if Congress were to decide to pass a continuing resolution that would operate federal agencies through FY 2008 at existing 2007 levels.

"Any time you're in a growth period and you have to be held to the previous year's funding, it has very negative consequences," Klein said, predicting that the new applications NRC is receiving could be slowed by a year or two if NRC must continue operating through 2008 at current funding levels.

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