



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. 07-035

March 15, 2007

NRC ISSUES FIRST-EVER EARLY SITE PERMIT FOR CLINTON SITE IN ILLINOIS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the first-of-a-kind Early Site Permit (ESP) to the Exelon Generation Co. for the Clinton ESP site near Clinton, Ill.

Successful completion of the ESP process resolves many site-related safety and environmental issues, and determines the site is suitable for possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant. Exelon filed its ESP application September 25, 2003. The permit is valid for up to 20 years. During that time, Exelon must still apply to the NRC for a Combined License to build one or more nuclear plants on the site before any significant construction can occur.

The NRC continues to work on three other ESP applications; Grand Gulf in Mississippi, North Anna in Virginia and Vogtle in Georgia. The staff has completed its technical review of the Grand Gulf and North Anna applications. The Grand Gulf application is before the Commission for its decision, and the North Anna application is currently the focus of a hearing by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB). The staff expects to issue a draft environmental impact statement and initial safety report on the Vogtle application by late summer.

The NRC staff's technical review of the Clinton ESP application covered issues independent of a specific nuclear plant design, such as how the site's characteristics affect plant safety, environmental protection, and plans for coping with emergencies. The staff issued a final safety evaluation for the Clinton ESP in February 2006, and a final environmental impact statement in July 2006. The ASLB conducted a hearing on the matter and ruled Dec. 28, that the permit could be issued. The Commission on March 8 directed the staff to issue the permit.

Copies of the Clinton ESP and related documents are available on the agency's Web site at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp/clinton.html> . The documents are also available for inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room in Rockville, Md., and at the Vespasian Warner Public Library in Clinton.

###

News releases are available through a free list serve subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html> . The NRC homepage at www.nrc.gov also offers a SUBSCRIBE link. E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's Web site.