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NRC, Army Corps to Seek Public Comments on Draft Environmental Report for PSEG Early Site Permit; Meetings Scheduled for Oct. 1

Nuclear Regulatory Commission and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff will receive comments Oct. 1 in Carneys Point, N.J., on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for an Early Site Permit (ESP) application for a site near Salem, N.J.

PSEG submitted an application on May 25, 2010, for an ESP for a site adjacent to the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants, which it owns and operates. The site is located in Hancocks Bridge, N.J.

The meetings are scheduled for 1-4 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. in the theater at Davidow Hall at Salem Community College, 460 Hollywood Ave., in Carneys Point (Salem County). Formal comments will only be accepted during the meetings. NRC and Corps staff will also host informal discussions for one hour prior to the start of each meeting. Parking will be available in Lot "A" on campus.

An ESP, if approved, allows a company to address site-related issues, including environmental impacts, for the possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at a predetermined site. No specific type of reactor design has to be selected when an ESP application is being pursued and a company is not obligated to proceed with a project should the NRC grant approval. Under an ESP, a company has up to 20 years to decide whether to seek a license from the NRC to build and operate a reactor, or reactors, on the designated site.

As part of its review of the application, the NRC and The Corps' Philadelphia District issued a DEIS for the application on Aug. 22, 2014. The Corps is participating as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EIS because certain proposed building activities require the Corps' authorization.

The preliminary conclusion is that assessed environmental impacts would not prevent the issuance of an ESP for the project. The NRC staff's conclusion is based on an independent review of an environmental report submitted by PSEG, taking into account consultations with federal, state, tribal and local agencies and comments received during the public scoping process begun in 2010.

The public comment period on the DEIS will be open until Nov. 6, 2014. A copy of the DEIS and more information on the PSEG ESP application are available on the NRC [website](#).