



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 05-117

August 26, 2005

NRC ISSUES SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY EVALUATION FOR CLINTON EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has updated its draft safety evaluation report (SER) for an Early Site Permit (ESP) for the Clinton site, which is located about six miles east of Clinton, Ill.

The ESP process allows an applicant to address site-related issues, such as environmental impacts, for possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at the site. The Clinton application was filed Sept. 25, 2003, by Exelon Generation Company, LLC. If approved, the permit would give Exelon up to 20 years to decide whether to build one or more nuclear plants on the site and to file an application with the NRC for approval to begin construction.

The SER update summarizes the NRC staff's technical evaluation of the Clinton site's suitability in terms of seismology and geology. The original draft SER, issued in February, did not include these areas because Exelon used a new method for determining the site's largest earthquake the plant could withstand and still shut down safely. The staff has completed reviewing the methodology and will finish evaluating the site once Exelon submits additional information.

Along with completing the SER, the staff must complete an Environmental Impact Statement, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards must issue a report on the ESP application, and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel must conclude its hearing on the matter before the Commission can reach a final decision on issuing the ESP. The NRC expects to finish this process by early 2007.

Exelon will have 14 days to review the SER supplement for proprietary information. The report will then be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. It will also be available on the NRC's Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp/clinton.html> . In addition, the Vespasian Warner Public Library in Clinton has agreed to make the supplement available for public inspection.

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