

January 7, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: John R. Tappert, Chief
Environmental Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: James H. Wilson, Senior Project Manager **/RA/**
Environmental Section
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL
SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE GRAND GULF EARLY SITE PERMIT
REVIEW (TAC NO. MC1379)

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, January 21, 2004
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Port Gibson City Hall
1005 College Street
Port Gibson, Mississippi

CATEGORY 3:* This is a Category 3 Meeting. The public is invited to participate in this meeting by providing comments and asking questions throughout the meeting.

PURPOSE: To conduct a transcribed public meeting to provide members of the public with an opportunity to provide their comments on what environmental issues the NRC should consider during its review of the early site permit (ESP) application for the Grand Gulf ESP site. This meeting will be conducted as part of the scoping process outlined in 10 CFR Part 51 to support development of an environmental impact statement in support of the application. See the attached agenda and *Federal Register* Notice (68 FR 75656).

The meeting will be preceded by an informal "open house" beginning at 6:00 p.m. for those who wish to attend. The "open house" will provide members of the public with an opportunity to talk informally "one-on-one" with NRC staff.

CONTACTS: James H. Wilson, NRR Cristina Guerrero
(301) 415-1108 (301) 415-2981
GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov

*Commission's Policy Statement on "Enhancing Public Participation in NRC Meetings," 67 *Federal Register* 36920, May 28, 2002.

Members of the public may register to present oral comments at this meeting by contacting Cristina Guerrero (800) 368-5642, ext 2981, or by email GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov by January 14, 2004. Those who wish to make comments may also register outside the Port Gibson Town Hall meeting site within 15 minutes of the start of the meeting. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Ms. Guerrero's attention no later than January 14, 2004, to provide the NRC staff adequate notice to determine whether the request can be accommodated.

PARTICIPANTS:	<u>NRC</u>	<u>Members of the Public Who</u>
	J. Tappert	<u>Register to Speak</u>
	F. Cameron	
	J. H. Wilson	

Docket No. 52-009

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. *Federal Register* Notice

**AGENDA FOR PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS FOR
GRAND GULF EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2004

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

- I. Welcome and purpose of meeting - 5 minutes (F. Cameron)
- II. Overview of early site permit process - 10 minutes (J. Tappert)
- III. Overview of environmental review process - 15 minutes (J. Wilson)
- IV. Public comments - 2 ½ hours (F. Cameron)
- V. Closing/availability of transcripts, etc. (F. Cameron)

*The NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the meeting. No comments on the scope of the environmental review will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting (see agenda, above) or in writing, as described in the *Federal Register* notice.

ATTACHMENT 1

[Federal Register: November 25, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 250)]
[Notices] [Page 75656-75658]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access
[wais.access.gpo.gov] [DOCID:fr31de03-153] [[Page 75656]]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 52-009]

Exelon Generation Company, LLC, Grand Gulf Early Site Permit; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process

System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI) has submitted an application for an early site permit (ESP) for property co-located with the existing Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station facility near Port Gibson, Mississippi, identified as the Grand Gulf ESP site. The site is located near the town of Claiborne County, Mississippi. The application for the ESP was submitted by letter dated October 16, 2003, pursuant to 10 CFR part 52. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the *Federal Register* on November 14, 2003 (68 FR 64665). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for the ESP was published in the *Federal Register* on December 1, 2003 (68 FR 67219). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of the review of the ESP application and to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process as defined in 10 CFR 51.29. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, "Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act," the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In accordance with 10 CFR 52.17(a)(2), 51.45, and 51.50, SERI submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR parts 51 and 52 and is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. The application may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/license-reviews/esp/grandgulf.html>. In addition, the Harriette Person Memorial County Library, located at 606 Main Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150, has agreed to make the ER available for public inspection.

The following key reference documents related to the ESP applications and the NRC staff's review process are available through the NRC's Web site <http://www.nrc.gov>:

- a. 10 CFR part 51, Environmental protection regulations for domestic licensing and related regulatory functions.
- b. 10 CFR part 52, Early site permits; standard design certifications; and combined licenses for nuclear power plants.

- c. 10 CFR part 100, Reactor site criteria.
- d. NUREG-1555, Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants.
- e. NUREG/BR-0298, Brochure on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process.
- f. Regulatory Guide 4.7, General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations.
- g. Fact Sheet on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process.
- h. Draft Review Standard RS-002, Processing Applications for Early Site Permits.
- i. NRR Office Instruction LIC-203, Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues.

The regulations, NUREG-series documents, regulatory guide, and fact sheet can be found under Document Collections in the Electronic Reading Room on the NRC web page. The draft review standard is at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/license-reviews/esp/esp-public-comments-rs-002.html>. Finally, Office Instruction LIC-203 can be found in ADAMS in two parts under accession numbers ML011710073 (main text) and ML011780314 (charts and figures).

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare an EIS in support of the review of the application for an ESP at the Grand Gulf ESP site. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (issuance of the ESP at the Grand Gulf ESP site) include no action and consideration of alternative sites. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 52.18 to prepare an EIS in connection with the issuance of an ESP. This notice is being published in accordance with NEPA and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the EIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft EIS for public comment. Participation in this scoping process by members of the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the draft EIS will be used to accomplish the following:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the EIS.
- b. Determine the scope of the EIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the EIS being considered.
- e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.
- f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.
- g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the EIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.
- h. Describe how the EIS will be prepared, including any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in the scoping:

- a. The applicant, System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI)
- b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- d. Any affected Indian tribe.
- e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
- f. Any person who intends to petition for leave to intervene.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC will hold a public meeting for the EIS regarding the Grand Gulf ESP application and the associated site redress plan. The scoping meeting will be held in the Port Gibson City Hall, located at 1005 College Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi, on Wednesday, January 21, 2004. The meeting will convene at 7 p.m. and will continue until 9:30 p.m., as necessary. The meeting will be transcribed and will include the following: (1) An overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the EIS, and the proposed review schedule; and (2) the opportunity for interested Government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the EIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of the meeting at the Port Gibson City Hall. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the EIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either during the transcribed portion of the public meeting or in writing, as discussed below. Persons may pre-register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting on the scope of the NEPA review by contacting Ms. Cristina Guerrero by telephone at 1 (800) 368-5642, extension 2981, or by Internet at GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov no later than January 21, 2004. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of the session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the EIS. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Ms. Guerrero's attention no later than January 14, 2004, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scope of the Grand Gulf ESP and site redress plan review to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this *Federal Register* notice. Comments may also be hand-delivered to the NRC at 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, Room T-6D59, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written comments should be postmarked by February 12, 2004. Electronic comments may be sent by the Internet at GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov. Electronic submissions should be sent no later than February 14, 2004, to be considered in the scoping process. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through the NRC's PERR link <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> at the NRC Homepage.

Participation in the scoping process for the EIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the EIS relates. Notice of a hearing regarding the application for an ESP will be the subject of a future *Federal Register* notice.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection through the NRC's PERR link. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft EIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and a separate public meeting. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final EIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the EIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from Ms. Guerrero at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this XXth day of January 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvements Program
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[FR Doc. 03-32147 Filed 12-30-03; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

Grand Gulf Early Site Permit - Environmental Review

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Grand Gulf Expanded Service List

cc:

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