

12/31/03  
68 FR 75656

From: "PETERSON, Scott" <jsp@nei.org>  
To: <GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov>  
Date: Fri, Jan 23, 2004 4:49 PM  
Subject: Nuclear Energy Institute comments for the record

(3)

Attached for the record are written comments by the Nuclear Energy Institute that I requested be made part of the official record during my remarks at the Jan. 21, 2004 environmental scoping meeting in Port Gibson, MS. If you have questions about these remarks, please contact me at 202.739.8044.

Sincerely,

Scott Peterson  
Vice President-Communications

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**Remarks by  
J. Scott Peterson,  
Vice President, Nuclear Energy Institute**

**Grand Gulf Early Site Permit Environmental Scoping Meeting  
Port Gibson, MS  
January 21, 2004**

Good evening. I am Scott Peterson, vice president of the Nuclear Energy Institute in Washington, D.C. I have been involved in nuclear power for 16 years, and during that time I have seen the nuclear energy industry in the U.S. compile an excellent record of efficiency and safety matched by few other industries.

Entergy's record is among the very best over that time. The talent and dedication of Entergy's nuclear personnel gives me – and should give you – every confidence that Entergy could construct and operate a nuclear plant that would provide its customers with reliable, affordable and clean energy for decades to come.

It is my pleasure to speak this evening about a new regulatory process for licensing nuclear power plants. I have followed the development of this process from the issuance of the first proposed rule by the NRC in 1989, through various challenges to the NRC's approach, and including the requirements mandated by the Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 ... and to the present.

I thank you for your participation here tonight. Your presence here demonstrates that this process is working as intended...in providing a forum through which you can voice your own views...and where you can assess the facts to form your own opinions.

Entergy is one of three U.S. nuclear energy companies that have filed applications for early site permits, the first step in the process. Exelon in Illinois and Dominion in Virginia are the others. The Department of Energy is also participating in this process, as with any process that can contribute toward enhancing our nation's energy security.

Let me emphasize that *none* of the three companies pursuing early site permits has made a decision to build a new reactor. Like any company entrusted with meeting a basic public need, these companies are taking prudent steps to plan ahead, looking at the options for providing their customers with energy for the future.

The early site permit process is just one element in an improved licensing process for nuclear power plants in America. The goal remains to implement a process that satisfies all legal requirements, provides for increased and focused public participation, and results in a fully informed decision—either “yes” or “no”—in a timely manner.

Today, nuclear energy provides electricity to power one out of every five U.S. homes and businesses. It is the only large-scale, emission-free electricity source that can be readily expanded.

Nuclear power plants do not produce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides or the major greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide. That's important for future generations. Believe me, with two teenage sons and their insatiable use of electricity, I see every day that we will need more electricity – and we will also need clean air. With nuclear energy, we can have both.

Entergy's Grand Gulf Station generates about one-fifth of this state's power. In 2002, operation of Grand Gulf *avoided* the emission of nearly 50,000 tons of sulfur dioxide and more than 20,000 tons of nitrogen oxide to the state's atmosphere, compared to what would have been emitted by fossil electric generating plants.

Given these benefits, it should come as no surprise that our nation's leaders value nuclear energy as an electricity source for today ... and for the future. President Bush, congressional leaders ... business leaders like Sun Microsystems CEO Scott McNealy and Intel CEO Craig Barrett ... and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan ... support nuclear energy because of its affordable, reliable and it protects our environment.

The early site permit process is a vital step toward meeting the future needs these leaders envision.

The pioneering companies pursuing early site permits are helping shape a more open and predictable means for building new nuclear plants. In the old licensing process—dating back to the 1960s—safety issues were not fully resolved until after construction was virtually complete. With the new licensing process, the public has more opportunities to comment on licensing and safety issues, and much earlier in the process, as here with the early site permit process.

Significantly, this is just one of many opportunities for the public to participate in the new licensing process. For example, if Entergy actually were to decide to build a plant, there would be several public meetings, as well as opportunities to submit written comments.

This approach benefits the public, as well as a company seeking to develop energy supplies for the future. This process allows for prudent business decision-making on how to serve growing consumer electricity demand, and it provides for sound investment decisions to be made to fund a plant's construction.

Tonight's meeting is an important part of the new licensing process. This process that will assess the future viability of this site for a possible new nuclear plant—an affordable, environmentally responsible energy source for our nation's future.

Thank you.

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(H)

From: <SOLOMONW@aol.com>  
To: <GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov>  
Date: Sun, Jan 25, 2004 6:47 PM  
Subject: Grand Gulf EIS

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services  
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Subject: Environmental Impact Study (EIS), Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station

Please include the below comment in the EIS for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Station Application.

The Claiborne County Hospital is responsible for providing care in the event of accidents at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant. Please study the overall hospital facility, and procedures for its current and potential future responsibility to provide care in the event of nuclear accidents.

Solomon S. Wilson  
Board of Trustee Member  
Claiborne County Hospital

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