

April 21, 2005

Mr. William A. Eaton
System Energy Resources, Inc.
Entergy Operations
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT (DEIS) FOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT (ESP) AT THE GRAND
GULF ESP SITE (TAC NO. MC1379)

Dear Mr. Eaton:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed NUREG-1817, "Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf ESP Site: Draft Report for Comment." Enclosed is a copy of the draft report and the associated *Federal Register* Notice of Availability. This notice advises the public that the draft report is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room) and directly from the NRC Website at www.nrc.gov. In addition, the Harriette Person Memorial Library, located at 606 Main Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi, has agreed to make the DEIS available for public inspection. The notice also informs the public that a public meeting on the DEIS will be held at the Port Gibson City Hall, located at 1005 College Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi, on Tuesday, June 28, 2005. The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meeting will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of the meeting at the library.

As discussed in Section 10.5 of the DEIS, the staff's preliminary recommendation is that the ESP should be issued. This preliminary recommendation is based on (1) the Environmental Report submitted by SERI; (2) consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies; (3) the staff's independent review; (4) the staff's consideration of comments received during the public scoping process; (5) the assessments summarized in the DEIS, including the potential mitigation measures identified in the environmental report and in the DEIS; and (6) the staff's conclusion in the DEIS that there are no environmentally preferable or obviously superior alternative sites.

W. Eaton

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A separate notice of filing of the draft environmental impact statement will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the NRC Environmental Project Manager, Mr. James Wilson, at 301-415-1108 or by e-mail at GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 52-009

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

W. Eaton

- 2 -

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Docket No.: 52-009

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cc w/encl: See next page

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ADAMS Accession Nos.:

1. Letter to W. Eaton w/Svc. List, FRN: **ML051110284**
2. NUREG-1817, Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf ESP Site, Draft Report for Comment: **ML051110531**
3. Pkg: **ML051110314**

Document name: E:\Filenet\ML051110284.wpd

OFFICE	RLEP:PM	RLEP:LA	OGC (NLO)	RLEP:SC	RNRP:DRIP	RLEP:DRIP:PD
NAME	JHWilson	YEdmonds	MWoods	AKugler (JHWilson for)	WBeckner	PTKuo
DATE	04/1/05	04/12/05	04/4/05	04/13/05	04/14/05	04/15/05

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONDOCKET NO. 52-009SYSTEM ENERGY RESOURCES, INC.NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTFOR AN EARLY SITE PERMIT (ESP) AT THE GRAND GULF ESP SITEAND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) has published NUREG-1817, "Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf ESP Site: Draft Report for Comment." The site is located near the Town of Port Gibson in Claiborne County, Mississippi. The application for the ESP was submitted by letter dated October 16, 2003, pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of *Federal Regulations* Part 52 (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). A notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and to conduct the scoping process was published in the *Federal Register* on December 31, 2003 (68 FR 75656).

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that NUREG-1817, "Environmental Impact Statement for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf ESP Site: Draft Report for Comment," is available for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20852, or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), and will also be placed directly on the NRC Web site at

www.nrc.gov. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the Harriette Person Memorial Library, located at 606 Main Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi, has agreed to make the DEIS available for public inspection.

The NRC staff will hold a public meeting to present an overview of the DEIS and to accept public comments on the document. The public meeting will be held at the Port Gibson City Hall, located at 1005 College Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi, on Tuesday, June 28, 2005. The meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meeting will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the DEIS, and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of the meeting at the library. No formal comments on the DEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting or in writing. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting by contacting Ms. Cristina Guerrero, by telephone at 1-800-368-5642, extension 3835, or by Internet to the NRC at GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov no later than June 21, 2005. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting 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. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Ms. Guerrero will need to be contacted no later than June 21, 2005, if special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the DEIS concerning the Grand Gulf ESP application 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 delivered to Room T-6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, 20852, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays. To be considered, written comments should be postmarked by July 14, 2005. Electronic comments may be sent by the Internet to the NRC at GrandGulfEIS@nrc.gov. Electronic submissions should be sent no later than July 14, 2005. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through the NRC's PERR link at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Cristina Guerrero, License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC, 20555-0001. Ms. Guerrero may be contacted at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of April, 2005.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
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Grand Gulf Early Site Permit - Environmental Review

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