

18. REVIEW BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) completed its review of the application from Exelon Generation Company, LLC (EGC or the applicant) for an early site permit (ESP) for the Exelon Generation Company (EGC) ESP site and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's draft safety evaluation report (DSER) and supplemental DSER for this application. The ACRS ESP subcommittee began its detailed review of the EGC ESP application and the staff's DSER in February 2005.

The ACRS ESP subcommittee met with representatives from EGC and the staff on September 7, 2005. The ACRS held its full committee meeting on the EGC ESP DSER on September 8, 2005. The discussions during these meetings focused on the open items from the DSER and the supplemental DSER. On the basis of its review, the ACRS issued an interim letter report, dated September 22, 2005, which addresses the portions of the EGC ESP application that concern safety. The staff responded to the interim letter report in its letter dated October 26, 2005 (ADAMS Accession No. ML052790028). This final safety evaluation report (FSER) documents the resolution of open items discussed in the DSER and the supplemental DSER. The FSER also captures the actions that the staff has taken in response to the comments and recommendations identified by the ACRS in its interim report of September 22, 2005, as described in the staff's response letter of October 26, 2005.

During its meetings with the ACRS on March 8 and March 9, 2006, the staff discussed the resolution of open items and the responses to ACRS comments on the major elements of the ESP review. At the 530th meeting of the ACRS, the full committee considered the staff's FSER, as well as EGC's ESP application, and issued its final letter report to the NRC Chairman on March 24, 2006. That letter report is included as Appendix E to this report.

In its final letter report dated March 24, 2006, the ACRS concurred with the NRC staff's conclusions concerning EGC's ESP application and concluded that the proposed site, subject to the permit conditions recommended by the staff, can be used for nuclear power plants or modules having a total power generation rate of 2400 to 6800 MW thermal without undue risk to public health and safety.