



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
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June 15, 2006

Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RECEIVED

4/11/06
71 FR 18369
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**RE: EPA Review and Comments on NUREG-1817
Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf ESP Site
Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
CEQ No. 20060133**

Dear Sir:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the subject *Final Environmental Impact Statement* (FEIS) Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The proposed action is to approve a site within the existing Grand Gulf site boundaries as suitable for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power generating facility, and to issue an ESP for the proposed site. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of our review.

Thank you for your responses to our comments on the DEIS, which are included in Appendix E of the FEIS. We appreciate your revisions and clarifications. Based on EPA's review of the FEIS, environmental concerns continue to exist regarding aspects of the proposed project.

Specifically, the FEIS notes that in the high-level waste and spent fuel disposal component of the fuel cycle, there is some uncertainty with respect to regulatory limits for offsite releases of radionuclides for the current candidate repository site. Also, emergency preparedness should be evaluated further, particularly regarding potential implications of a release to plant personnel or the public in the event of a major unintended release. In addition, continuing coordination with Environmental Justice communities in the area should take place, to ensure that EJ concerns are addressed as the project progresses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this FEIS. Please send us a copy of the Record of Decision (ROD) when it is finalized. If you have any questions, contact Ramona McConney of my staff at (404) 562-9615.

Sincerely,

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office

E-RIDS = ADM-03

all = J.H. Wilson
(JHW1)

SOWSI Review Complete

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