

## **NRC Staff Process for Determining Whether Information in an Application is Sufficient**

When the Staff finds that the Site Safety Analysis Report (SSAR) does not contain adequate information for the Staff to make its safety determination in any given area, the Staff will request additional information from the applicant. Similarly, when the Staff finds that it cannot reach a safety conclusion based on information in the SSAR, the Staff may request that the SSAR be revised so that it can support a Staff safety conclusion. If the SSAR is not revised in such a manner, the Staff may place a condition in the early site permit (ESP).

The required contents of and review scope for an ESP are in the Code of Federal Regulations and in RS-002, Review Standard for "Processing Applications for Early Site Permits." If an ESP application meets the regulations in 10 CFR Part 52, Subpart A – and in particular, if it conforms to the guidance in RS-002 – the Staff will find that the existing information is sufficient to support the ESP application and no additional work is required. Information beyond this is appropriately submitted at the construction permit (CP) or combined license (COL) stage. In the case of Grand Gulf, no particular design for a potential reactor has been chosen; therefore, any questions that relate to specific design features of a future reactor are appropriately deferred to the COL stage.

During the course of its review, the Staff may identify design issues associated with the site that it thinks should be addressed by a future applicant who wants to reference the ESP. In these cases, the Staff will establish a COL Action Item. COL Action Items identify certain design matters that any future applicant referencing the ESP shall address in the site-specific section of the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). These COL Action Items call for a set of design information to be provided by any future applicant referencing the ESP, but this list is not exhaustive; that is, they do not constitute the complete set of information that must be provided by any future applicant. A COL application referencing a Grand Gulf ESP would still need to meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 52, Subpart C.