

# **COL Environmental Pre-App Activities**

## **AP1000 and ESBWR Design-Centered Working Groups Meeting**

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## Objective

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**To ensure the timely review of applications for new nuclear power plants, NRC has established a process to enhance the staff's preparedness for receipt of prospective applications.**

**DG-1145, C.IV.7.2 *Pre-Application Activities that Support the Environmental Review***



# Environmental Reviews at COL

- **Siting reviews of COLs cannot derive the same benefits as a design-centered approach to resolve design issues; design interfaces with the environment can be standardized, but site differences exist.**
- **Environmental review efficiency can accrue with effective plans that are stable and standardized (e.g., ESRP, audit and evaluation processes) and that build trust and confidence among stakeholders (e.g., openness, transparency, outreach, disclosure).**
- **Preplanning and early resolution of issues with stakeholders are fundamental to timely processing of applications. Delayed startups and mid-course corrections severely impair effectiveness.**



# Role of the Environmental Report

- NRC must fulfill NEPA responsibilities before taking an action; issuance of ESP or COL is a “major Federal action” requiring EIS. ER assists NRC in fulfilling our NEPA responsibilities. The NEPA review is an opportunity for applicant to bring all licensing and permitting authorities under the canopy of a single comprehensive environmental review.
- In the ER, the proponent of the action documents its rationale supported by analysis of impacts and alternatives to the action. Applicant can be more effective if it takes the perspective of the regulator in developing its ER. Ultimately, NRC will independently review information in the ER and prepare the EIS, providing the environmental basis for issuance of the action (e.g., COL).
- During pre-application period, NRC must be aware of applicant’s efforts and actions to collect and analyze environmental information and to demonstrate conformance with regulatory requirements and applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws and regulations.



# Pre-Application Readiness Assessment Planning

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- **High-level goals for readiness assessment activities**
  - **Understanding of NRC expectations, applicant's project plans, and activities initiated**
  - **Stakeholder (government-to-government) interactions and other jurisdictional authorizations**
  - **Familiarization with site selection, information gathering, and application records**
  - **Public information meeting**
  
- **Audit-like activities are led by NRC staff equivalent of Environmental Project Manager, supported by staff and contractors**
  
- **Earliest applications should plan for activities as early as January 2007**