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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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# Public Outreach Meeting
# Early Site Permit Application for PSEG site
# May 6, 2010

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Office of New Reactors

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# Purposes of Today's Meeting

- Describe how an Early Site Permit (ESP) fits into our licensing process
- Describe our safety review
- Describe our environmental review
- Describe your opportunities to participate with us
- Provide you with NRC contact information

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# Who is the NRC?

**N**uclear **R**egulatory **C**ommission

- We protect the public health and safety, assure security, and protect the environment during civilian uses of nuclear materials
- We regulate many types of nuclear activities, including the design, construction, and operation of nuclear power plants
- We are an independent Federal regulatory agency

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# What the NRC does

- Determines whether it is safe to build and operate a proposed nuclear power plant at a site
- Evaluates the environmental impacts of building and operating a nuclear power plant at the proposed site
- Authorizes the construction and operation of nuclear power plants
- Licenses the people who operate nuclear power plants

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# Why are we Here Today?

- PSEG Power informed the NRC via a February letter that the company intends to apply for an ESP by May 28, 2010
- The NRC will ensure the application is complete before we start our review

# What is an Early Site Permit?

- A document that approves a proposed site as suitable to support a nuclear power plant
- An ESP does <u>not</u> allow for construction of safety significant portions of the plant, and it does <u>not</u> allow for operation

# How does an Early Site Permit Align with other NRC Approvals?

- An applicant can apply for a Limited Work Authorization, which provides approval to begin specific activities before a Combined License is issued
- A Limited Work Authorization can be issued with an ESP or before a Combined License
- An ESP can also be referenced in a future Combined License application

# How Do Early Site Permits Fit in the NRC Licensing Process?

- An ESP resolves site suitability issues early
- An ESP can support an application for a Combined License to build and operate a nuclear power plant
- An ESP can be matched to an approved reactor design, or cover a range of possible design parameters

# Why is there Interest in Early Site Permits?

- An ESP is valid for up to 20 years so that applicants can decide when to seek approval to build a plant
- An applicant chooses an ESP to identify and resolve siting issues early, and to reduce regulatory and financial uncertainties when planning for the future

# ESP Review and Current ESPs

- ESP reviews are generally completed in less than 3 years
- The NRC has issued four ESPs:

  Clinton (IL) - March, 2007

  Grand Gulf (MS) - April, 2007

  North Anna (VA) - November, 2007

  Vogtle (GA) - August, 2009
- The NRC is currently conducting an acceptance check on Victoria County (TX) ESP Application

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# Required Reviews: PSEG Site ESP Application

- The safety review team creates a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) addressing
  - Site Safety
  - Emergency Planning
  - Security
- The environmental review team creates an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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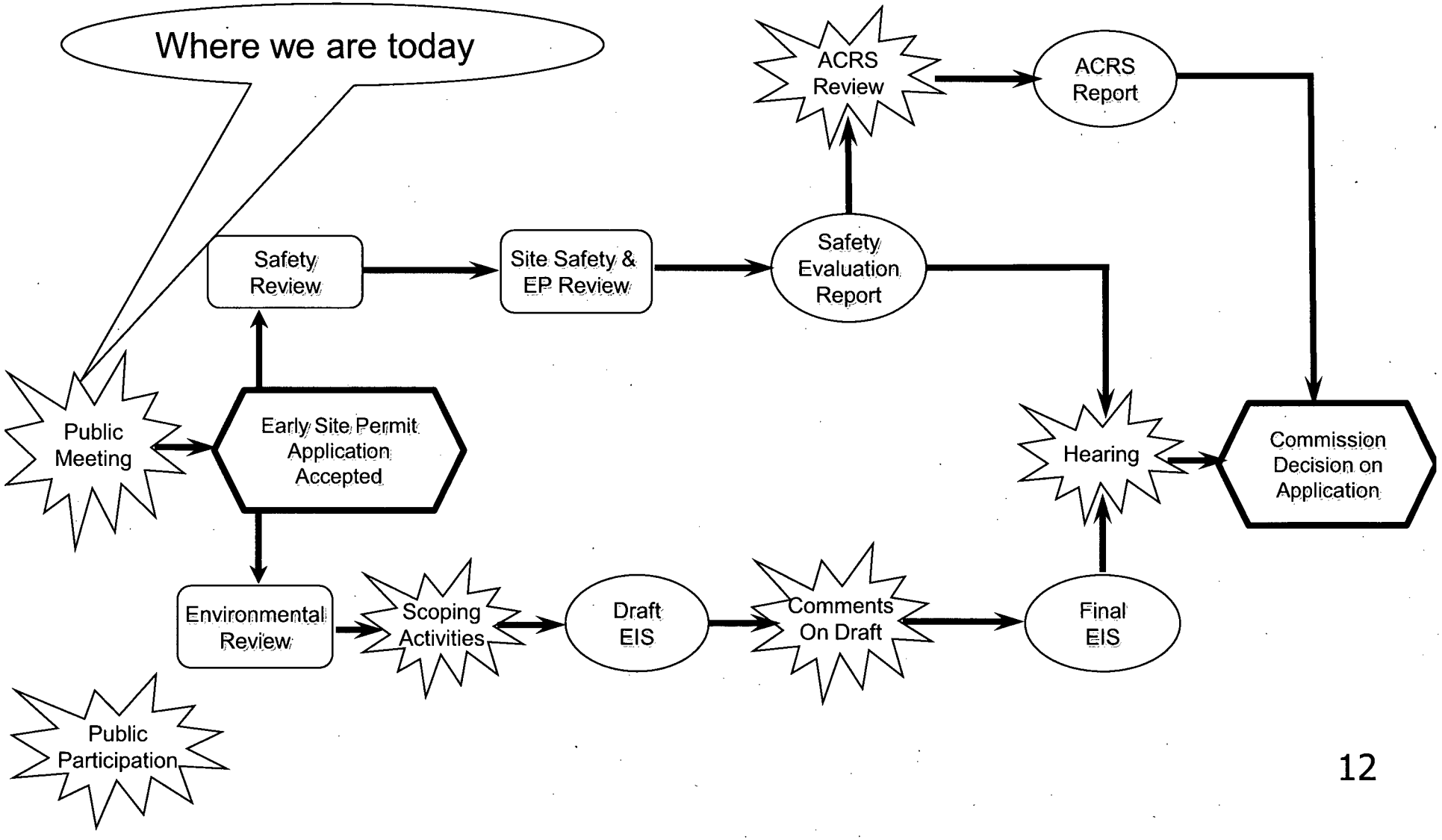
# Early Site Permit Review Process



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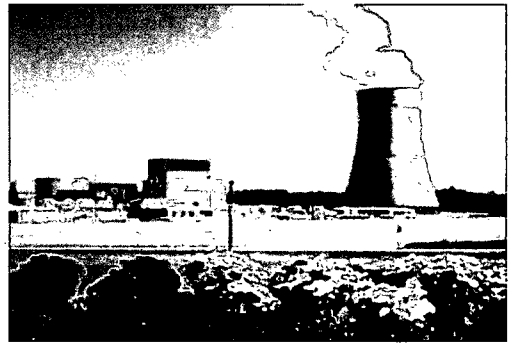
# Participants in NRC Review Process



**NRC**

- Commissioners
- NRC Staff members
- Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
- Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

**Stakeholders**

- Residents of the community
- Public interest groups
- Other Federal agencies
- State entities
- Local officials
- Tribal organizations

**Applicant**

- PSEG Power

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# Safety Review under the Atomic Energy Act

- Atomic Energy Act authorizes the NRC to protect public health and safety, and to provide for the common defense and security

- A Safety Evaluation Report (SER) will be issued after we conduct our review according to the regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52

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# PSEG Site ESP Safety Review

- Areas of review include:
  - Seismology
  - Geology
  - Hydrology
  - Meteorology
  - Geography
  - Demography (population distribution)
  - Site hazards evaluation
  - Emergency Preparedness (with FEMA)

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# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- NEPA requires the NRC to systematically consider environmental impacts of its actions, such as licensing

- The NRC must issue an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) detailing its ESP Environmental review

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# PSEG Site ESP Environmental Review

- Evaluate environmental impacts from construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at this site
- NRC systematic approach
  - Regulations (10 CFR Part 51)
  - Guidance: Environmental Standard Review Plan (NUREG-1555)
  - Rigorous Internal Review

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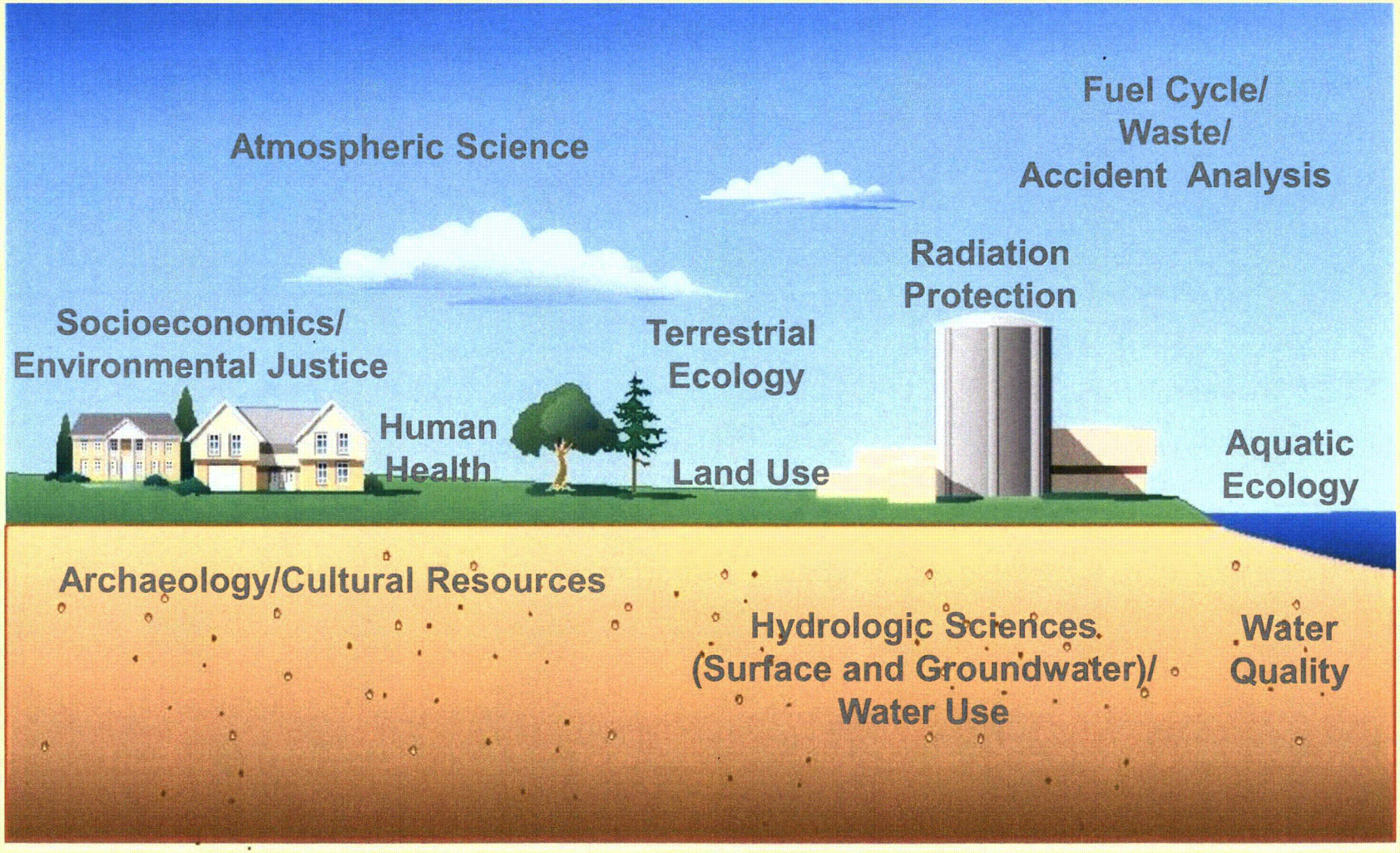
# Environmental Review Team Expertise



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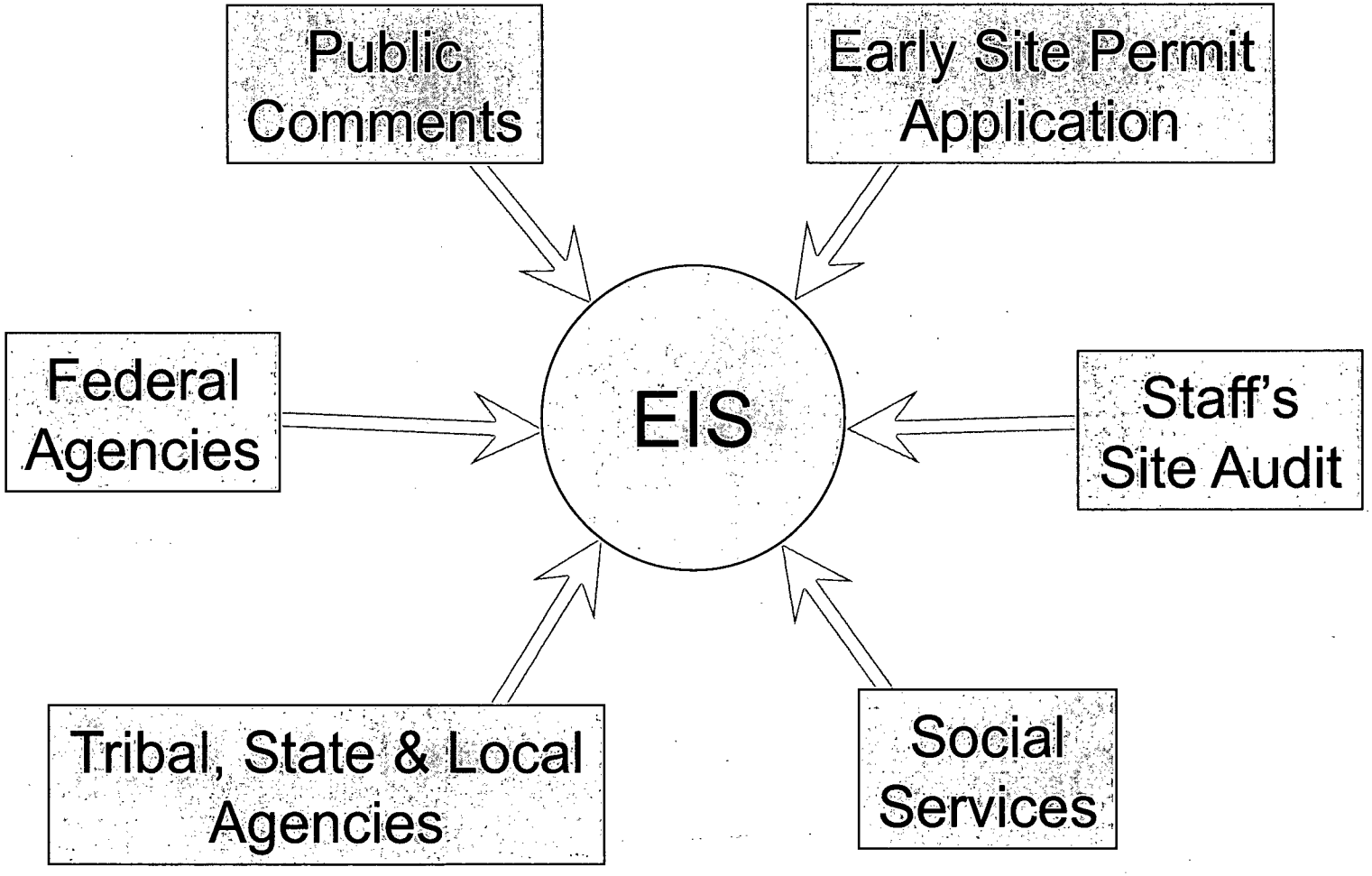
# Information Gathering



# Public Involvement - Environmental Review

- Public involvement
  - Public meeting on scope of environmental issues
  - Public comment on draft EIS
- Document and publish environmental findings
- Maintain open and transparent review process

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# Public Involvement - Hearing

- The public's opportunity to participate in a hearing
- A Hearing Notice in the *Federal Register* will describe how members of the public can petition to intervene in the hearing process

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# Hearing

- Members of the public will have 60 days to electronically file a petition to intervene
- Hearing notices include instructions for e-filing (also at www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html)
  - E-filing is required by the Commission
  - Petitioners need a digital certificate or waiver from the requirement (allow 10 business days)
- Hearing covers both Safety and Environmental Issues

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# Additional Information

- Agency Points of Contacts

**Prosanta Chowdhury, Safety Project Manager**

E-mail: Prosanta.Chowdhury@nrc.gov; Ph: 800-368-5642 ext. 1647

**Allen Fetter, Environmental Project Manager**

E-mail: Allen.Fetter@nrc.gov; Ph: 800-368-5642 ext. 8556

**Neil Sheehan, Region I Public Affairs Officer**

E-mail: Neil.Sheehan@nrc.gov; Ph: 610-337-5331

- Documents related to the docketed application can be viewed at the NRC website (www.nrc.gov)