



# PUBLIC MEETING

## DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR COMBINED LICENSES (COLS) FOR VOGTLE ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNITS 3 & 4

October 7, 2010  
Augusta Technical College

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## U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- NRC's mission:
  - Protect public health and safety;
  - Promote common defense and security;
  - Protect the environment.
- The NRC is an independent agency.
- The NRC has over 30 years of experience regulating operating reactors and other civilian uses of nuclear materials.



Source: U.S. NRC



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## Purposes of this meeting

- Describe the NRC's environmental review schedule and process.
- Share NRC's preliminary recommendation with you.
- Describe how you can provide comments.
- **Listen to and gather your comments.**

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## Project Background

- Early Site Permit (ESP) application submitted August 2006. Limited Work Authorization (LWA) application submitted in August 2007.
- Southern Nuclear Operating Company (SNC) submitted a Combined Operating License (COL) application referencing an ESP in March 2008.
- ESP with an LWA issued August 2009.
- Three ESP license amendment requests (LAR) submitted by SNC and approved in May, June and July 2010.

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## Environmental Review Process for a COL Referencing an ESP

The process for a COL referencing an ESP – 10 CFR 51.75(c)(1) states that if “the COL application references an early site permit, then the NRC staff shall prepare a draft supplement to the early site permit environmental impact statement” (EIS) and that the supplement must be prepared in accordance with 10 CFR 51.92(e)

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## Environmental Review Process for A COL Referencing an ESP

Per 10 CFR 51.92(e):

- the supplement to the ESP EIS shall incorporate by reference the final EIS for the ESP,
- contain no separate discussion of alternative sites,
- contain an analysis of all issues that were not resolved in the proceeding for the ESP, and
- include an analysis of resolved issues for which new and significant information has been identified.

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## Environmental Review Process for A COL Referencing an ESP



### New & Significant Information:

The term “new” in the phrase “new and significant information” means:

- Not considered in preparing the ESP environmental report or EIS
- Not generally known or publicly available during the preparation of the EIS

The term “significant” means:

- Information must be material to the issue being considered, that is, the information must have the potential to affect the finding or conclusion of the NRC staff evaluation of the issue

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## New and Significant Information Review Process



### New & Significant Information Process:

- SNC developed and implemented a new and significant information process (i.e. contacted Federal, State, and local agencies, academia, local experts, etc.).
- NRC staff audited, SNC’s new and significant information process to determine its effectiveness and documented the result of that audit.
- NRC determined that SNC’s new and significant information process was adequate.
- NRC conducted its own independent search by contacting appropriate sources.

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## Resource Areas For Which Staff Conclusions Did Not Change

- Land-Use
- Meteorological and Air-Quality
- Environmental Justice
- Non-radiological Health
- Radiological Health
- Socioeconomics
- Aquatic Ecosystems
- Postulated Accidents
- Water Related Impacts
- Transportation
- Cultural and Historic Resources

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## Staff Conclusion Changed in One Resource Area

### Ecology Impacts:

- Terrestrial Impacts: New and potentially significant information was found concerning two state listed species of concern (Southeastern Pocket Gopher and Sandhills milk-vetch)

Impact Level for terrestrial ecology changed from SMALL to MODERATE due to LAR activities to obtain backfill materials and the relocation of these species



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## How Impacts are Quantified



NRC has established three levels of impact:

**SMALL:** Effect is not detectable, or so minor it will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.

**MODERATE:** Effect is sufficient to alter noticeably, but not destabilize, important attributes of the resource.

**LARGE:** Effect is clearly noticeable and sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.

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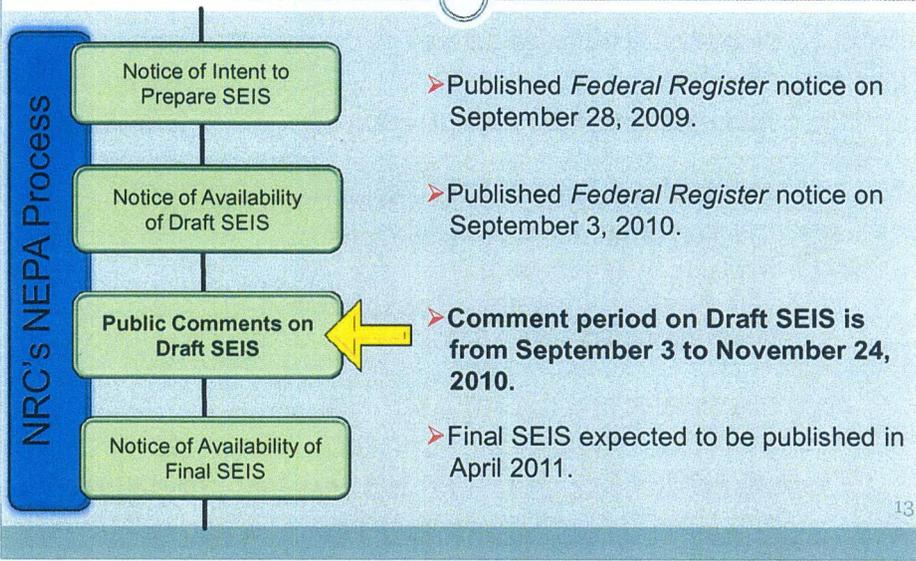
## Preliminary Recommendation



Based on the staff's independent analysis and review, along with consultation with other Federal, State, and local agencies, the staff is recommending that the COLs and LWA be issued.

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## Review Process & Schedule



## Access to the Draft SEIS



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[www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1947](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1947)



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## Submitting Comments on Draft SEIS



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<http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/form.html>



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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Fax to RDB at (301) 492-3446

**COMMENTS ARE DUE BY November 24, 2010**

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