PUBLIC MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING FOR THE VICTORIA COUNTY STATION EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION

December 2, 2010

Ryan Whited, Branch Chief
Tomeka Terry, Environmental Project Manager
Office of New Reactors

Purposes of this meeting

- Describe the NRC's environmental review process
- Provide the schedule for the NRC's review
- Describe how you can provide comments on the scope of the review
- Describe how you can be involved in hearing process
- **Listen to and gather your comments**

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 35 years of experience regulating operating reactors and other civilian uses of nuclear materials

Source: U.S. NRC

U.S.NRC
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Protecting People and the Environment

National Environmental Policy Act

- NEPA requires Federal agencies to use a systematic approach to consider environmental impacts
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for major Federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment
- Issuing a early site permit is considered a major Federal action

Environmental Review

- NRC's environmental review is a NEPA review
- NRC is the lead agency for the preparation of the EIS for the Early Site Permit
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District is a cooperating agency for the preparation of the EIS

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- USACE is the federal agency responsible for administering Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- USACE regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into all jurisdictional waters of the United States and construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over, or under such waters, or any work which would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of all navigable waters of the United States
- USACE permit decisions are Federal actions and must comply with NEPA

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USACE Participation

- The final Environmental Impact Statement will serve as the primary environmental document on which US Army Corps of Engineer's off-site alternatives analysis will be based for this proposed project if/when an application is submitted for an Department of the Army permit

- At this time, Exelon is not applying for a Department of Army permit

Early Site Permit

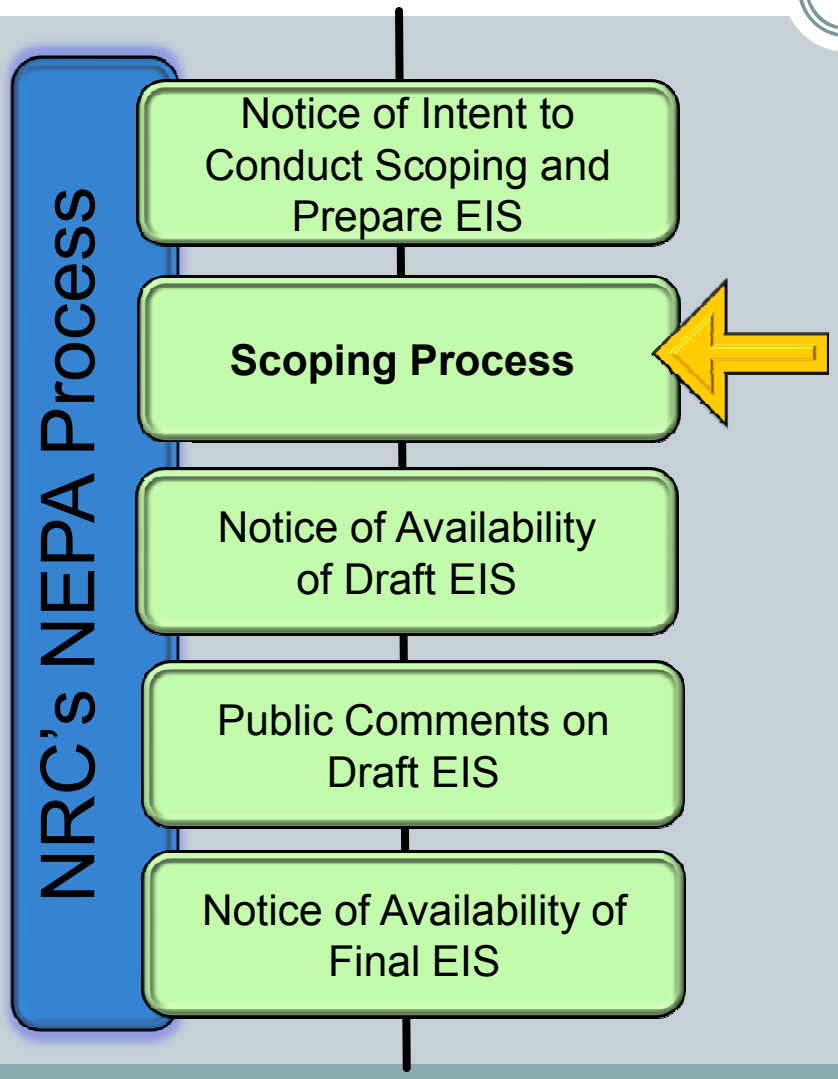
- An ESP does not authorize building or operating a new nuclear power plant

- An ESP is issued only if a site is found to be suitable for the potential building and operation of one or more nuclear reactor units

Source: Exelon Environmental Report

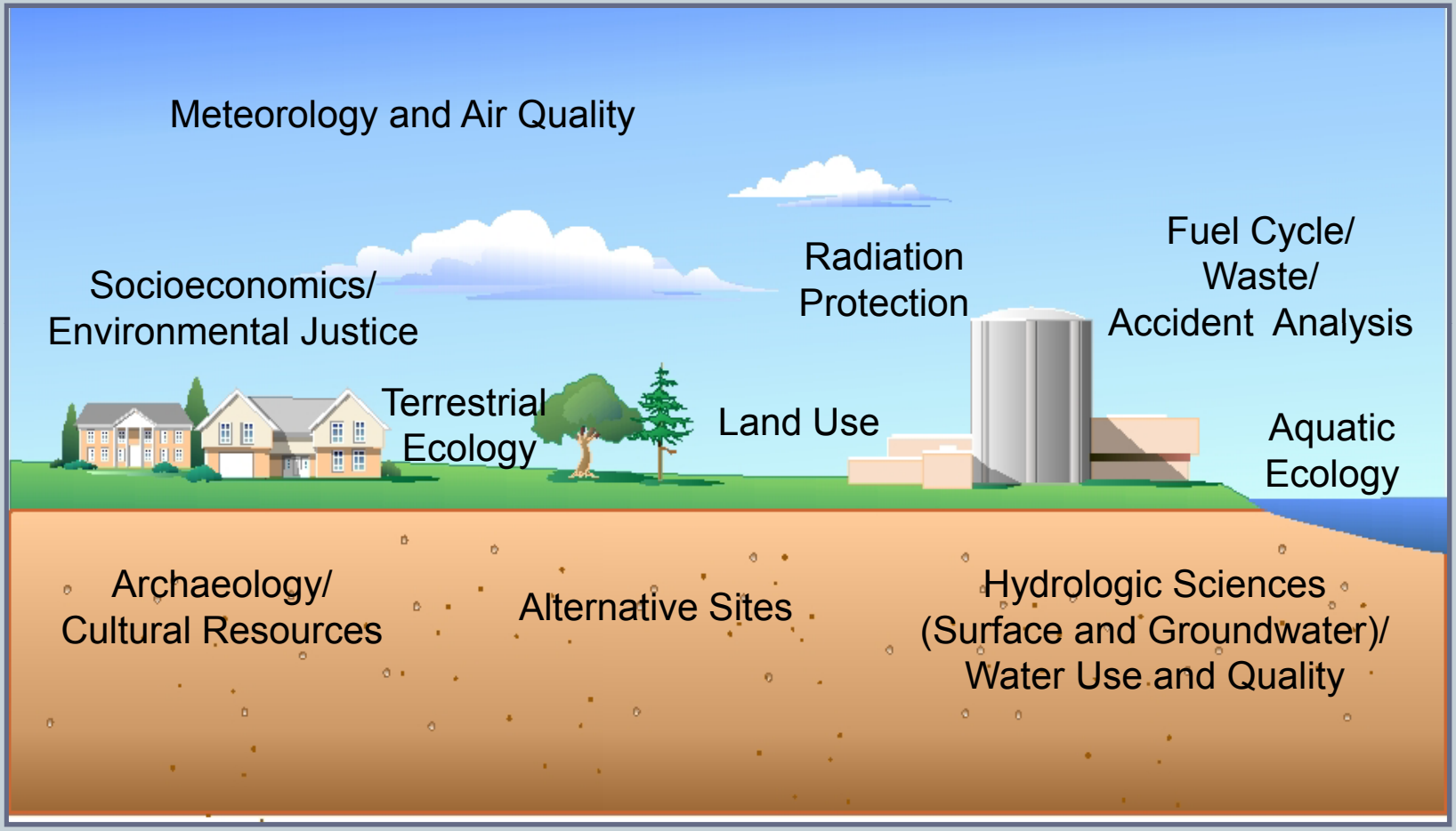
- On March 25, 2010, Exelon Nuclear Texas Holdings, LLC (Exelon) applied for an Early Site Permit (ESP) for one or more reactor units at the Victoria County Station site

Review Process and Schedule



- Published *Federal Register* notice on November 2, 2010
- **Public scoping period from November 2 to January 3, 2011; includes today's scoping meetings**
- Expect to publish Draft EIS in August 2012
- There will be a 75-day public comment period on Draft EIS
- Expect to publish Final EIS in August 2013

Some EIS Resource Areas

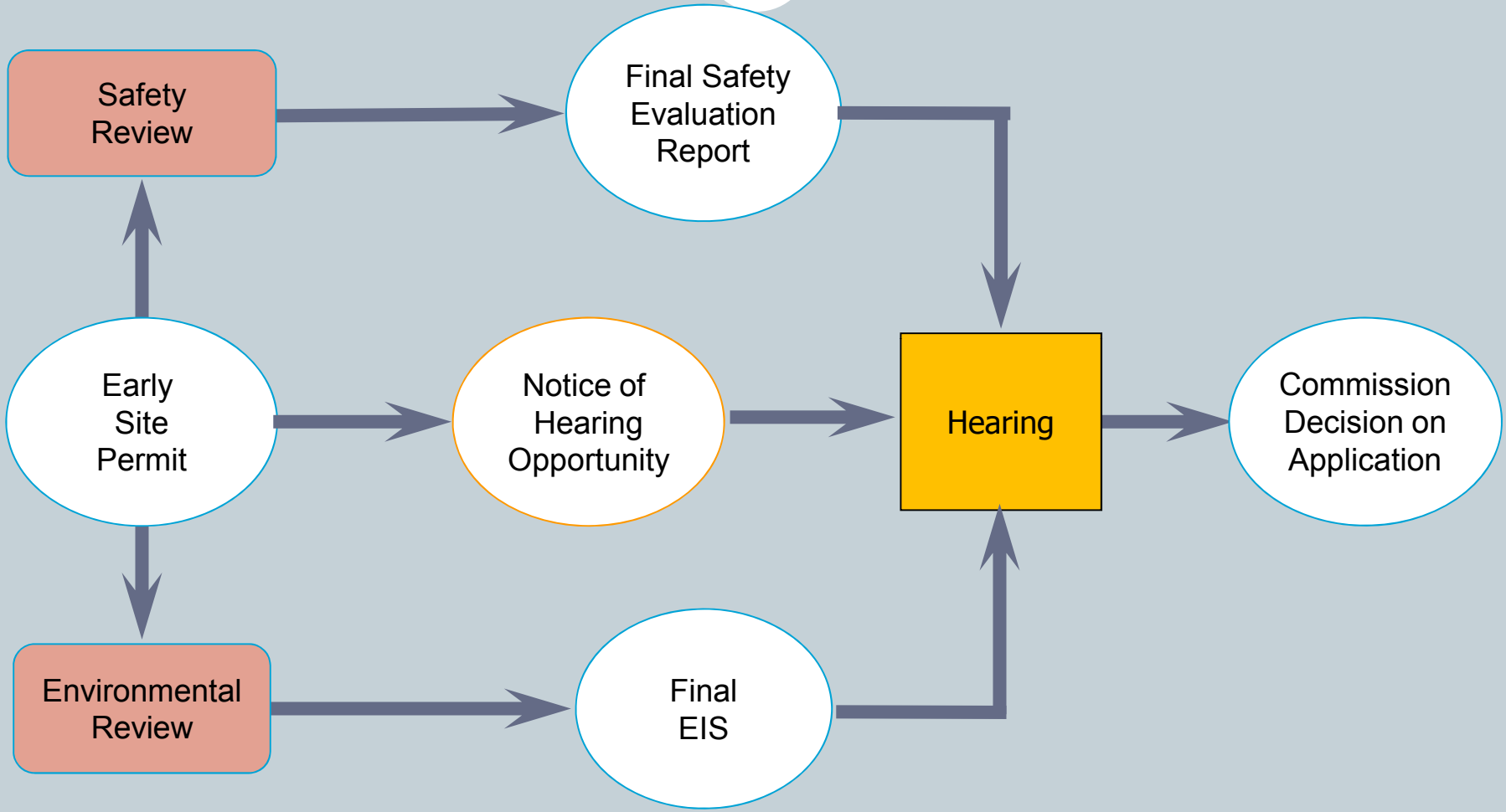


Source U.S. NRC

Environmental Scoping

- This process helps determine what NRC should review in preparing the EIS
- Comments during the scoping period can be submitted through **January 3, 2011**
- NRC's Scoping Summary Report will provide responses to all comments received

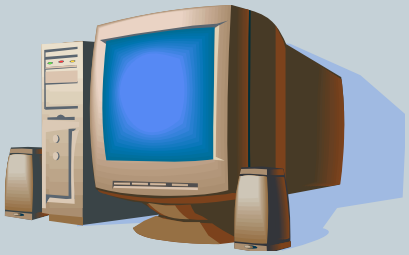
Early Site Permit Review



Getting Involved in the Hearing

- Opportunity for members of the public to seek a hearing (file a petition to intervene)
  - Deadline to file is **January 24, 2011**, see the November 23, 2010 Federal Register Notice (75 FR 71467)
- A digital certificate (or a request for a waiver of the certificate) is required for filing a petition
- Instructions for e-filing are included in the hearing notice or at www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html
- **IMPORTANT**: allow **5** business days to obtain the digital certificate so that you meet the timeliness requirements

Access to the Applicant's Environmental Report



http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/esp/victoria.html

Victoria Public Library

302 North Main Street

Victoria, TX

Submitting Scoping Comments

Victoria.ESPEIS@nrc.gov

Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch (RDB)
Division of Administrative Services
Mailstop TWB-05-B01M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC, 20555-0001

Fax to RDB at 301-492-3446

COMMENTS ARE DUE BY **January 3, 2011**

Contacts

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Tomeka Terry, Environmental Project Manager
800-368-5642, X1488, Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov

Jayson Hudson, USACE Project Manager
409-766-3108, Jayson.M.Hudson@usace.army.mil

Janelle Jessie, Safety Project Manager
800-368-5642, X6775, Janelle.Jessie@nrc.gov