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NRC Seeks Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement For PSEG Early Site Permit, Public Meetings Oct. 1

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, are seeking public comment on a preliminary conclusion that environmental impacts would not prevent issuing an Early Site Permit (ESP) for the PSEG site in Salem County, N.J. The site is adjacent to the existing Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants, about 15 miles southeast of Wilmington, Del.

The NRC staff's preliminary environmental recommendation is that a permit could be issued. The staff's conclusion is based on its independent review of a report submitted by PSEG, taking into account consultations with federal, state, tribal and local agencies and consideration of comments received during the public scoping process in November 2010. The staff's preliminary conclusions include a finding that there are no environmentally preferable or obviously superior sites. The staff must also complete a separate review of safety issues before an agency decision on the permit.

The preliminary conclusion is contained in NUREG-2168, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for an Early Site Permit at the PSEG ESP Site." The EIS will be available on [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under Docket ID **NRC-2014-0149**. The public can comment on the draft EIS until Nov. 6, including at two public meetings Oct. 1, in Carneys Point, N.J. The NRC will issue a separate notice for the meetings in the near future. Comments can be submitted, using Docket ID **NRC-2014-0149**, through [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or by mailing them to Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: 3WFN-06-A44M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

The ESP process allows an applicant to address site-related issues, such as environmental impacts, for possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at the site. PSEG Power and PSEG Nuclear submitted the ESP application on May 25, 2010. If approved, the permit would give PSEG up to 20 years to decide whether to request a license from the NRC to build and operate a reactor at the site. More information on the PSEG application is available on the NRC [website](http://www.nrc.gov), and a "Reader's Guide" to the draft EIS is available on the NRC's electronic document database, [ADAMS](http://www.adams.nrc.gov), under accession number ML14217A479.

The ESP application includes activities that require Army Corps of Engineers authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899. Those activities are described in the draft EIS. PSEG is completing a permit application to the Corps to authorize those activities, and the Corps will publish a separate public notice detailing the work proposed for Corps review and authorization.