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NRC Completes Safety Review of Early Site Permit for Southern New Jersey Location

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its Final Safety Evaluation Report for an Early Site Permit (ESP) application from PSEG Power and PSEG Nuclear. The report concludes there are no safety aspects that would preclude issuing the permit for the site, adjacent to the existing Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants in Salem County, N.J.

The 688-page [report](#) describes the agency's review of the application, and incorporates [comments](#) from the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. The NRC staff reviewed information on topics including:

- site seismology, geology, meteorology and hydrology;
- risks from potential accidents resulting from operation of a nuclear plant at the site;
- the site's ability to support adequate physical security for a nuclear plant; and
- the proposed complete and integrated emergency plan PSEG would implement if a reactor was built at the site.

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. The PSEG companies submitted the application on May 25, 2010. More information on the ESP [process](#) is available on the NRC website.

The staff will provide the report on the application to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board for a mandatory hearing on the permit. The staff must also finalize its Environmental Impact Statement on the application prior to the board's hearing, which will determine whether the staff's review supports the findings necessary to issue the permit.