

April 20, 2017

Reid Nelson, Director  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street NW, Suite 308  
Washington DC 20001-2637

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF SECTION 106 AND SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR THE CLINCH RIVER NUCLEAR SITE IN ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for an early site permit (ESP) for the Clinch River Nuclear (CRN) Site near Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The ESP application and review process makes it possible to evaluate and resolve safety and environmental issues related to siting a potential future small modular reactor at the CRN Site. An ESP does not, however, authorize construction and operation of a nuclear power plant. Such authorization would require an additional application and review.

As part of the review of this ESP application, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, has been invited to participate as a cooperating agency with the NRC for the purpose of complying with NEPA. As a Federal agency, TVA is required to comply with NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) independently from NRC and the USACE. In its environmental report, which was submitted as part of its application, TVA described its Section 106 consultation status with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office and Federally-recognized Tribes, including the execution of a Programmatic Agreement. The NRC will consider this information in the conduct of its NHPA Section 106 consultation.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC staff is using the process required by NEPA for the preparation of the EIS to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. In addition to assessing impacts to historic and cultural resources, the draft EIS will also include identification of historic properties, assessment of effects, and the NRC staff's preliminary determination. The purpose of this letter is to initiate NHPA Section 106 consultation with your office and to invite you to participate in the scoping process pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28(a).

The CRN site is located in Roane County, with the center approximately 25 miles west-southwest of downtown Knoxville, Tennessee on the Clinch River. The NRC has defined the direct and indirect area of potential effects for this ESP review as the area at the Clinch River site and the Melton Hill Dam and its immediate environs, which may be directly or indirectly impacted by land-disturbing and building activities associated with the construction and operation of possible future small modular reactors (see enclosures).

The TVA application is available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at [http://www.nrc.gov/reading\\_rm/adams.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reading_rm/adams.html). The environmental report portion of the application is listed under ADAMS Accession No. ML16144A145. The Clinch River application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/esp/clinch-river.html>.

The NRC staff plans to hold two public meetings on May 15, 2017, at the Pollard Technology Conference Center Auditorium, 210 Badger Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The first meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m., and will continue until approximately 4:00 p.m. (as necessary). The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repetition of the overview portions of the first meeting and will continue until approximately 9:00 p.m. (as necessary). Both meetings will be preceded by a one hour open house during which members of the public may meet and talk with the NRC staff members on an informal basis.

As your Tribe has historic ties to Tennessee, the NRC invites you to submit any comments that you may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by June 12, 2017. Comments may be submitted to the following e mail [ClinchRiverESPEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:ClinchRiverESPEIS@nrc.gov). The NRC expects to publish the draft EIS in June 2018. A copy of the draft EIS will be sent to your office for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received, the NRC will prepare a final EIS, which is scheduled to be published in June 2019.

R. Nelson

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If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this ESP application, please contact Ms. Patricia Vokoun, NRC Environmental Project Manager for the CRN ESP project, at (301) 415-3470 or by e-mail at [Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov](mailto:Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov), or in her absence, please contact Ms. Tamsen Dozier at 301-415-2272 or by email at [Tamsen.Dozier@nrc.gov](mailto:Tamsen.Dozier@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Allen H. Fetter, Acting Branch Chief  
Licensing Branch 3  
Division of New Reactor Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-047

Enclosures:

1. ER Figure 2.3-1.1
2. ER Figure 2.1-3

cc: Sarah Stokely, Program Analyst

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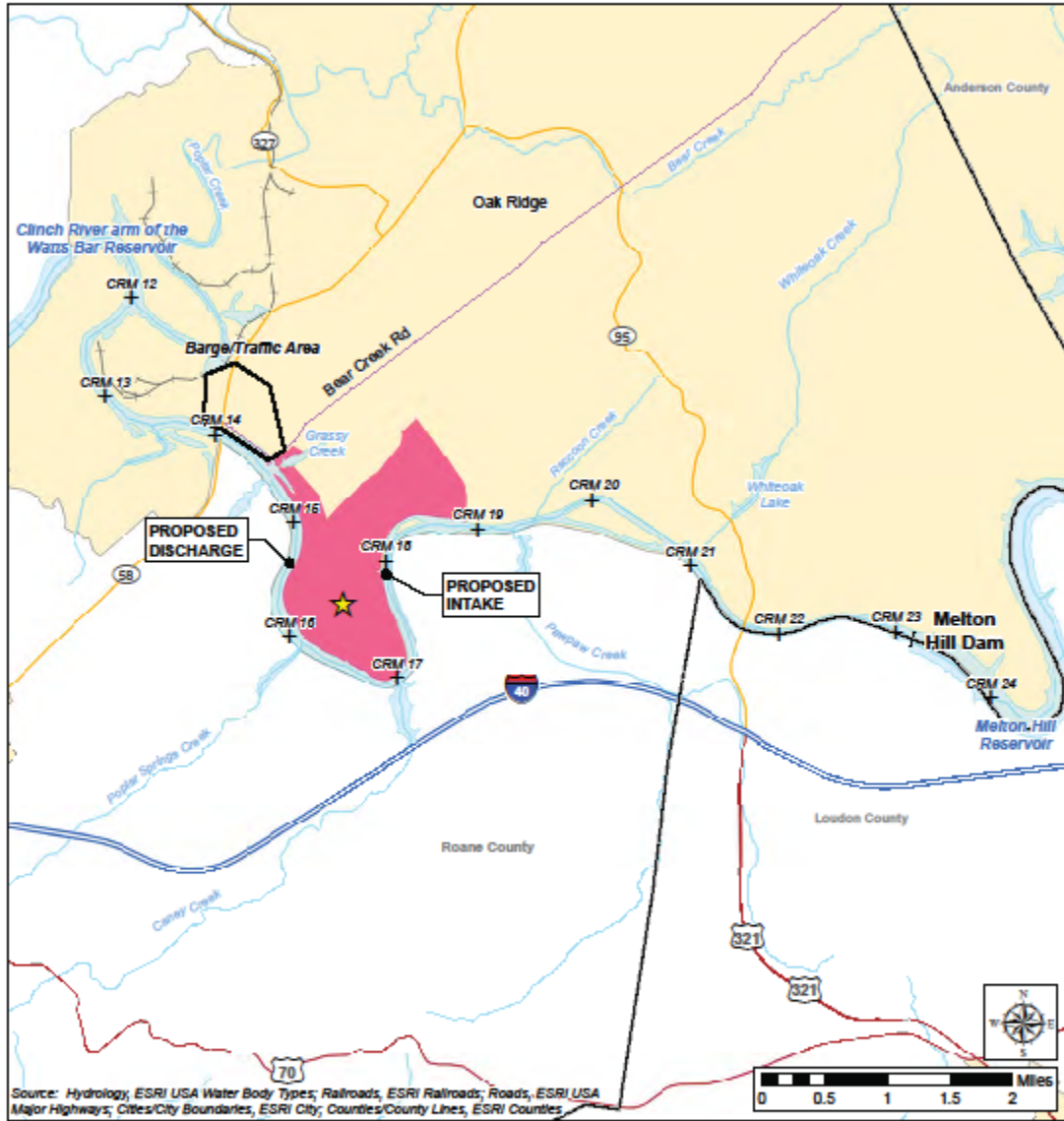
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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML17065A239**

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DATE	01/16/2017	03/08/2017	03/02/2017	04/20/2017

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Clinch River Nuclear Site  
 Early Site Permit Application  
 Part 3, Environmental Report



**Legend**

- |                                  |                                      |                            |                             |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ★ CRN Site Center Point          | Light Blue Area Rivers and Lakes     | Thick Blue Line Interstate | Purple Line Bear Creek Road |
| + Clinch River Mile              | Yellow Area Town/City Boundaries     | Red Line Highway           |                             |
| Pink Area CRN Site               | Black Outline Counties               | Yellow Line Major Road     |                             |
| Black Outline Barge/Traffic Area | Black Outline with Crosses Railroads |                            |                             |

**Figure 2.3.1-1. CRN Site Vicinity Water Resources**

Clinch River Nuclear Site  
 Early Site Permit Application  
 Part 3, Environmental Report

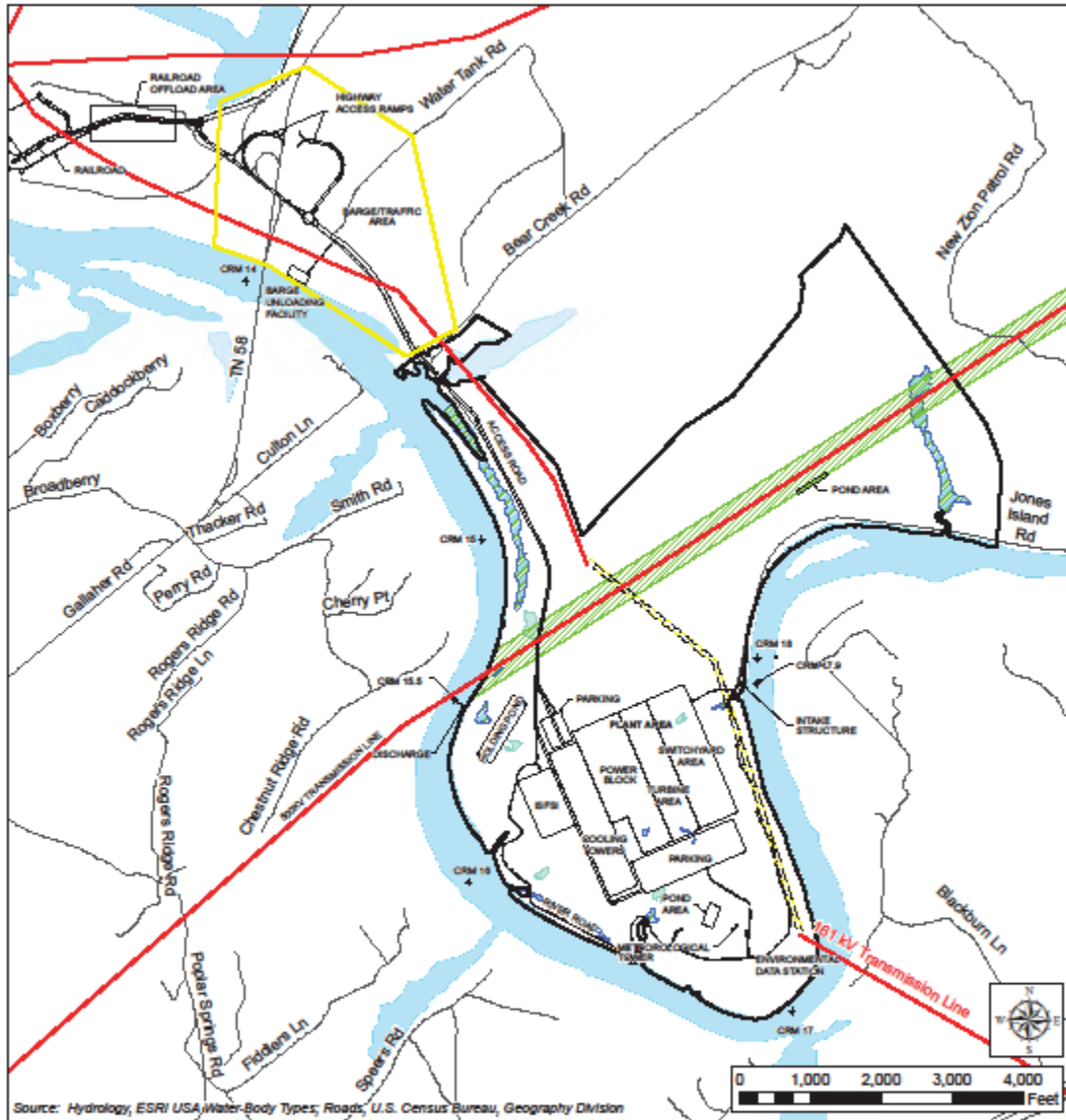


Figure 2.1-3. CRN Site Layout

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(Revised 3/25/2017)

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