

Progress on Licensing Applications – May 2017

1. Progress to Eliminate the Backlog of Pending Licensing Action

Operating Reactors

The Commission has taken specific actions to ensure greater discipline and management oversight in the RAI process.

On June 30, 2014, the Commission issued a SRM (ADAMS Accession No. ML14181B402) directing the staff to consider, in the context of Project Aim, ways to reduce the licensing action backlog and get back on target with respect to timeliness. In response to the SRM, NRR, as operating reactor business line lead, launched several initiatives and took other actions to focus on how the NRC can leverage or revise its existing licensing processes to enhance agency efficiency, effectiveness, and predictability as a regulator, while maintaining a continued strong safety focus. These initiatives have analyzed the issues that caused the backlog, including issues related to the RAI process, and provided recommendations to NRR management regarding enhancements to the licensing review process. In part, as a result of recommendations from the initiatives, NRR management issued interim guidance to the staff in January 2015, and updated interim guidance in April 2016, that provides expectations to help ensure consistency of the licensing review process, sound decision-making, and discipline of schedule. In January 2017, this interim guidance was incorporated into NRR procedures. Some of the key items in the procedures that have added discipline and management oversight to the RAI process include the following:

- NRR staff review of an application will be limited to the scope of the licensing action and RAIs should have a clear nexus to information required to make a safety determination regarding the licensing action.
- At the point when RAIs are transmitted from the technical staff to the NRR project manager, the technical staff are expected to have developed a draft safety evaluation (SE). In addition to ensuring that the RAIs contain both a sound technical and regulatory basis, the technical staff should be able to correlate each RAI to a “hole” in the draft SE that the licensee response is intended to fill.
- NRR management will maintain a focus on RAIs. Prior to sending a second (and any subsequent) round of RAIs in a specific technical area, NRR division level management will apply additional oversight to discuss the need for the RAIs and whether alternative methods, such as a public meeting or audit, may be more effective and efficient for determining the necessary information that the licensee needs to submit.
- NRR project managers are expected to track licensee timeliness and adherence to RAI response schedules. Any significant delays in licensee responses will be brought to NRR management attention.

Training sessions were held with the technical and project management staff on RAI quality and process. In addition, following issuance of the finalized NRR guidance in this area in January 2017, an online training package was developed and provided to the NRR staff. This training covers expectations regarding added discipline and management oversight of the RAI process.

Other actions taken that help provide a stable and sustainable improvement in the RAI process and add accountability to the process include:

- In November 2014, NRR management began holding periodic meetings to discuss open licensing actions, develop alignment on the best approaches to completing those actions, and monitor licensing performance.
- In October 2016, NRR replaced the existing software used to manage and monitor licensing reviews with a newly developed software package called the Reactor Protection System -Licensing/Workload Management software. This system has the capability to better track RAI issuance and status.
- In December 2016, NRR started an audit of a sample of RAIs. This audit is intended, in part, to assess adherence to the RAI process as well as to assess whether the RAIs were necessary to make a regulatory decision. NRR plans to perform RAI audits on a periodic basis. Feedback from these audits will be used to assess potential opportunities for continuous improvement in the RAI process.

NRC also considers its approach to RAIs in other areas of licensing work:

Decommissioning and Low-Level Waste

The Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs' internal guidance includes the expectation that RAIs will be developed in conjunction with the draft SER to ensure that the RAI is necessary to reach a safety finding. In addition, the guidance contains the expectation to include a reference in the RAI to the specific requirement that has not been met, and encourages staff to conduct telephone conferences with licensees and applicants to efficiently resolve technical issues on RAIs. The NRC staff is in the process of finalizing an internal self-assessment that identifies possible efficiency improvements within the Uranium Recovery Program. The self-assessment includes recommendations for improving the efficiency of the RAI process, such as issuing RAIs as they are written rather than as a group, and reemphasizing the expectation that staff develop the draft safety evaluation and RAIs in concert. The staff will be considering which recommendations to implement in the near future.

New Reactors

In 2008, NRO published an RAI job aid document to be used as guidance by NRC staff when preparing RAIs. The RAI job aid document provided best practices information for preparing RAIs. This past summer, senior managers in NRO reexamined the 2008 RAI job aid and the overall process for issuing RAIs and made additional modifications to incorporate best practices learned throughout the course of many licensing reviews. The RAI process was revised (ADAMS Accession No. [ML16280A389](#)) to include a new quality check audit process where, in addition to the technical branch's supervisor, the division management of both the technical and project management organizations review an RAI before it is issued to the applicant or licensee. In addition, the Office Director will review RAIs on a sampling basis to keep abreast of high-priority issues identified in reviews and to support the office's emphasis on efficiency as we focus on safety, security, and environmentally significant matters. The revised job aid was issued in October 2016.

The NRC provided information to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in support of an audit currently underway by GAO on the NRC’s RAI process and related enhancements. The NRC provided several documents to GAO that specifically explain its RAI process and steps NRO has taken to ensure that RAIs issued from the office are consistently of high quality and are necessary to make a safety finding. On October 7, 2016, the NRO Director issued the memorandum, “Effective Use of Request for Additional Information, Audit, and Confirmatory Analysis in New Reactor Licensing Review” (ADAMS Accession No. [ML16278A574](#)), to all NRO staff with the goal being to promote and appreciate safety focus, efficiency, consistency, and clarity in the ongoing and future reviews of new reactor licensing applications.

2. Status of License Renewal Reviews

Operating Reactors

Applicant	Application Accepted for Review	Review status for long-term application reviews
Indian Point 2&3*	08/01/2007	The NRC staff is working to address public comments received on its draft second supplement to the final supplemental environmental impact statement, which was issued for comment in December 2015. In addition, an SER supplement will be issued to address new information received by the staff concerning safety issues. On February 8, 2017, New York State and Riverkeeper filed an unopposed motion to the Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) to withdraw their contentions and terminate the adjudicatory proceeding. The Licensing Board granted that motion and terminated the adjudicatory proceeding on March 13, 2017. Unless otherwise directed by the Commission, that decision will be final in 120 days. The schedule for a final decision on license renewal is to be determined pending completion of the staff’s review.
Diablo Canyon 1&2	01/21/2010	In May 2011 and July 2016, the NRC suspended the license renewal review. In June 2016, Pacific Gas and Electric requested the suspension to allow it to seek approval from the California Public Utilities Commission of an agreement in principle not to proceed with license renewal for Diablo Canyon.
Seabrook 1	07/21/2010	The NRC staff continues to work with the applicant to ensure technical issues for closure of the alkali silica reaction (ASR) open item in the SER are properly addressed. In 2016, the NRC staff issued Interim Staff Guidance (ISG)-2016-01, “Changes to Aging Management Guidance for Various Steam Generator Components.” The staff is working with the applicant to resolve questions raised in an RAI issued on March 16, 2017. On August 2016, the licensee submitted a license amendment request (LAR) to the current license to adopt a methodology for the analysis of seismic Category I structures with concrete affected by ASR. The staff cannot complete the review of the license renewal application until the review of the LAR is finalized. The current schedule is under review.

Applicant	Application Accepted for Review	Review status for long-term application reviews
South Texas Project 1&2	01/13/2011	All open items have been resolved. The current schedule for issuing the renewed license is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue final SER – June 2017 • Participate in the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) full committee meeting – July 2017 • Issue renewed operating license – September 2017
Waterford	05/31/2016	The review is expected to take approximately 25 months. The NRC staff continues work on the safety and environmental reviews.
River Bend	05/31/2017	The review is expected to take approximately 22 months. A final decision is expected in March 2019.

*A mutual agreement between Entergy and various parties to shutdown IP 2&3 was reached on January 9, 2017. Entergy has since notified the NRC that it intends to close IP 2&3. The staff anticipates completing the IP 2&3 license renewal reviews prior to FY 2019, but issuance of the renewed license will depend on Entergy's satisfactory closing of open items remaining in the license renewal review.

Research and Test Reactors License Renewal Applications Currently Under Review

Facility Name	Application Date	Status
Texas A&M University (TAMU) Aerojet-General Nucleonics (AGN) Reactor	07/22/1997	The review of the TAMU AGN reactor license renewal application (LRA) is on hold. The licensee disassembled and relocated the reactor into storage at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. The licensee intends to build a new facility to house the AGN at this location. The NRC will resume its review of the LRA once the licensee submits a revised safety analysis report describing the new location of the reactor.
Aerotest Radiography and Research Reactor (ARRR)	02/28/2005	The review of the ARRR LRA is on hold because of issues with foreign ownership, control, or domination. To address those issues, the NRC approved transfer of the ARRR license from Aerotest to Nuclear Labyrinth in February 2017. Once the license transfer is complete, the staff will revisit decisions related to the license renewal review.
University of Texas at Austin	12/12/2011	The review is in progress. The licensee is completing neutronics and thermal-hydraulic analyses which are needed for the NRC to complete its review.
University of Massachusetts at Lowell	10/20/2015	The review is in progress and on schedule.

Facility Name	Application Date	Status
North Carolina State University	02/24/2017	The review is in progress and on schedule.

3. Status of Power Uprate Application Reviews

The NRC staff currently has the following power uprate applications under review:

Browns Ferry, Units 1, 2 and 3

Browns Ferry extended power uprate application was accepted for review on January 11, 2016. The current review schedule forecasts completion of the review in July 2017, (approximately 18 months after acceptance).

Columbia Generating Station

The Columbia measurement uncertainty recapture uprate application was accepted for review on September 1, 2016. The staff approved this uprate on May 31, 2017.

Peach Bottom Units 2 and 3

The Peach Bottom measurement uncertainty recapture uprate application was received on February 17, 2017. The NRC staff is currently performing an acceptance review of the application.

4. Status of Design Certification, COL, and ESP Applications

The NRC provides the status of applications for DC, COL, and ESP applications to Congress in the “Semiannual Status Report on the Licensing Activities and Regulatory Duties of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission,” which was most recently issued to the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety via letter dated May 9, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17109A475). Below is information extracted from the latest report issued for the period of October 2016–March 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. [ML17109A477](#)), which has been updated to provide the status of applications currently under review as of May 2017.

Design Certification Applications

US-APWR

MHI submitted its US-APWR DC application on December 31, 2007. By letter dated November 5, 2013, MHI initiated a coordinated slowdown of NRC licensing activities in order to focus its resources towards supporting the restart of Mitsubishi designed reactors in Japan following the Fukushima event. The NRC staff has been performing the review of the US-APWR DC application at a reduced pace and will continue at this reduced pace until further notice from the applicant. A completion date is not known at this time.

APR1400

On December 23, 2014, Korea Electric Power Corp. and Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co., Ltd., (KHNP) submitted to the NRC its application for the certification of the APR1400 standard plant design for use in the U.S. domestic energy market. The Phase 2 review (issuing an SER with open items) for all chapters of the application was completed by the staff in May 2017. On June 21 and 22, 2017, the staff presented the final chapters of the Advance Safety Evaluation with open items to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. This action completes Phase 3 of the review. The final SER is projected to be issued in September 2018.

NuScale

On January 6, 2017, NuScale submitted the first SMR design certification application for review by the NRC. The transmittal letter indicated the application would be supplemented with the submittal of one topical report and four technical reports by January 10, 2017. By January 10, 2017, NuScale submitted all five remaining reports and by January 12, 2017, NuScale provided updated files that allowed successful completion of NRC's electronic processing of the application package.

On March 15, 2017, the NRC completed its acceptance review and concluded that the application was acceptable for review and docketed the application. The staff issued the acceptance review letter to NuScale on March 23, 2017, and developed a full review schedule with public milestones that was transmitted to NuScale in the form of a schedule letter on May 22, 2017. The final SER is scheduled to be completed in September 2020.

Design Certification Renewal Applications

ABWR Renewal (General Electric-Hitachi (GEH))

On December 7, 2010, GEH submitted an application for renewal of the ABWR DC. The NRC staff issued a letter to GEH on July 20, 2012, describing certain design changes (28 items) that GEH should have included in the application. By letter dated September 17, 2012, GEH stated it planned to address the 28 items and submit Revision 6 of the ABWR Design Control Document (DCD) no later than the second quarter of 2014. On March 17, 2014, GEH submitted a subsequent letter to the NRC stating that it would not be providing Revision 6 of the DCD earlier than May 2015. By letter dated February 19, 2016, GEH submitted its revised application (Revision 6) incorporating changes to the ABWR DCD. On August 30, 2016, the staff issued a schedule letter to GEH with a projected final SER completion date of March 2018.

COL Applications

Turkey Point Units 6 and 7

On June 30, 2009, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) submitted a COL application for two AP1000 units at the existing Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station site in Miami-Dade County, FL. On September 4, 2009, the NRC staff issued a letter to FPL indicating the Turkey Point COL application was acceptable for docketing and indicated that as a subsequent COL applicant referencing the AP1000 design, the Turkey Point COL review schedule would also be dependent on the review schedules for the AP1000 DC application as well as the Vogtle reference COL (R-COL) application. In addition, the staff indicated that additional information was needed in the areas of geology, hydrology, and structural engineering in order to develop a complete and integrated review schedule and that review of Section 2.5 of the application would not begin until the information requested had been provided. On May 28, 2010, the staff issued a schedule letter to FPL projecting a final SER completion date of December 2012 and a final

environmental impact statement (EIS) completion date of October 2012. In this letter, the staff reiterated its concern that it still had not received the additional information from FPL related to Section 2.5 of its application and that the review of Section 2.5 would not begin until this information was received by the staff. By letter dated October 27, 2011, the NRC issued a revised schedule to FPL due to the dependence of the Turkey Point COL review on the reviews of the AP1000 DC Amendment and Vogtle R-COL applications' reviews. The revised schedule projected final SER and final EIS completion dates of November 2013 and February 2014, respectively.

On May 4, 2012, the NRC issued a letter to FPL identifying two significant issues that were affecting the staff's ability to complete its safety and environmental reviews of the Turkey Point COL application: (1) geology, seismology, and geotechnical engineering and (2) the alternative sites analyses. Based on the significant issues identified above, the NRC indicated to FPL that the staff's safety and environmental reviews in these areas of the Turkey Point COL application would be suspended until FPL made substantial modifications to its COL application.

In a letter dated April 17, 2014, the staff informed FPL that publication of the final EIS would be re-evaluated based on the number and complexity of comments received (approximately 11,000 comment letters) on the draft EIS from Federal, State, and local agencies, members of the public, and interested stakeholders. The revised schedule projected final EIS completion in October 2016.

By letter dated August 26, 2014, the staff issued a letter to FPL indicating sufficient quality information had been submitted such that the NRC staff could schedule the review of Sections 2.5.1 through 2.5.5. The new schedule projected issuance of the final SER in October 2016.

Also in an October 27, 2015, letter, the staff informed FPL that the staff continued to actively engage with the AP1000 licensees as well as Westinghouse Electric Company to resolve several generic design issues. Since then the NRC staff has reviewed the additional information provided by Duke Energy Florida under the Levy Nuclear Plant docket and the information was subsequently reviewed by the ACRS in April 2016.

In a letter dated April 14, 2016, FPL endorsed departures related to changes in the AP1000 design certification that had also been submitted by Duke Energy Florida for the Levy COL application. On May 13, 2016, the NRC issued a revised schedule letter to FPL for the Turkey Point COL application contingent upon FPL providing the required information related to the departures by May 16, 2016, and all such proposed departures being equally and fully applicable to Turkey Point Units 6 and 7, and not requiring any additional staff review. The new schedule projected issuance of the final SER in November 2016. The NRC staff completed its safety review and presented the advanced final SER to ACRS on August 19, 2016. The final SER for Turkey Point was issued on November 10, 2016. The NRC issued the final EIS on October 28, 2016.

Per a Commission Order, the mandatory hearing was delayed to allow environmental consultations with other government agencies to proceed. On April 18, 2017, the City of Miami, City of South Miami, and Village of Pinecrest (petitioners) filed a new petition seeking a hearing. The NRC staff and FPL filed answers opposing the hearing request, which remains pending before the ASLB. On May 2-3, 2017, the ASLB conducted an evidentiary hearing in Homestead, Florida, in the contested proceeding.

North Anna Unit 3

On November 26, 2007, Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) submitted a COL application for an ESBWR at its North Anna Power Station site near Richmond in Louisa County, VA (Note: The NRC issued an ESP to Dominion for the North Anna Site on November 27, 2007). By letter dated January 28, 2008, the NRC informed Dominion that the North Anna COL application was acceptable for docketing and on February 27, 2008, the staff issued a schedule letter to Dominion for the detailed technical review. The environmental review incorporates, as applicable, consideration of the North Anna ESP and supported issuance of a final EIS in December 2009. The safety review supported issuance of a final SER in August 2010.

By letter dated February 25, 2009, the NRC issued a revised schedule to Dominion, which reflected updates due to delays with completing the staff's review of the ESBWR DC application. The staff also noted that a significant portion of the North Anna COL application safety review schedule was dependent upon the ESBWR DC review schedule. Therefore, any subsequent delays in the ESBWR DC review schedule would likely impact the schedule for the North Anna COL application review. The revised schedule supported issuance of the final SER in February 2011.

The NRC issued the final supplemental EIS for the North Anna COL application that referenced the ESBWR design in March 2010. On June 28, 2010, Dominion submitted a revised COL application changing its reactor design technology to the US-APWR. Three years later, on April 25, 2013, Dominion notified the NRC via letter of its intent to revert back to the ESBWR reactor design technology. Dominion submitted its partially revised COL application in July 2013 to reflect the changed reactor design technology decision and submitted all remaining application sections to the NRC in December 2013. On April 7, 2014, the NRC issued a revised safety review schedule letter to Dominion reflecting the change in reactor technology back to the ESBWR design. The revised safety review schedule projected a final SER completion date of March 2016.

During the staff review of Dominion's revised application, a magnitude 5.1 earthquake occurred at Mineral, VA. This event required a major reevaluation of the ground motion and seismic design requirements for the North Anna site. Dominion provided a seismic closure plan in October 2014 which outlined a revised approach to performing certain aspects of the seismic analysis for North Anna COL application as well as use of the most current NRC approved ground motion model. The plan identified RAI response information, seismic technical reports, geologic information, and field reconnaissance activities related to the Mineral, VA earthquake. In response, the staff issued a revised schedule that projected a final SER completion date of April 2017.

In a letter dated August 31, 2016, the NRC issued a new schedule reflective of the successful completion of all aspects of the Dominion's seismic closure plan, including three on-site audits with no new significant issues, as well as the completion of all the advanced final safety evaluations for the North Anna COL application. The revised review schedule represented an improvement of 3 months in the completion of the staff's review, with a new final SER completion date of January 2017. On January 12, 2017, the NRC staff completed the safety review for the North Anna Unit 3 COL application 3 months ahead of the public milestone.

The mandatory hearing was held on March 23, 2017. On May 31, 2017, the Commission authorized the staff to issue the North Anna 3 COL to Virginia Electric and Power Company, which the staff did on June 2, 2017.

Early Site Permit Applications

Clinch River

On May 12, 2016, TVA submitted an ESP application for the Clinch River Nuclear Site located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. By letter dated August 11, 2016, TVA identified certain aspects of the application for which it intended to provide supplemental information. The NRC responded to TVA in a letter dated August 19, 2016, and informed TVA that its application would remain in a tendered but not docketed status until all of the supplemental information identified was provided to NRC. By December 15, 2016, TVA had provided the supplemental information in support of its application, and by letter dated January 5, 2017, the NRC staff informed TVA that its application, as supplemented, was acceptable for docketing and detailed technical review.

NRC staff began its detailed technical review of the ESP application the first week of January 2017, and developed a full review schedule with public milestones that was transmitted to TVA on March 17, 2017.

5. Status of Uranium Recovery Licensing Application Review

Uranium Recovery Applicant	Application Accepted for Review	Review Status
Cameco North Trend Expansion	08/28/07	The applicant requested the NRC staff to stop its review of the North Trend application and to focus its efforts on the review of the Marsland expansion. The SER for the North Trend expansion was completed in July 2013. The NRC staff has suspended its work related to the development of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and conduct of Section 106 consultations pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act. In addition, the hearing to address contentions related to groundwater is on hold, pending completion of the NRC staff's environmental review. The current schedule for remaining milestones will be determined after the NRC staff has completed its review of the Marsland expansion license application.
Uranium One Ludeman Expansion	05/16/12	NRC environmental and safety reviews are in progress for the Ludeman Project, which is an expansion to the existing Willow Creek Project. The licensee is working to resolve safety and environmental issues. NRC met with the licensee on February 22, 2017, to discuss these issues and the licensee's plan to submit an amended application which addresses a major change of design planned by the licensee. On March 28, 2017, the NRC staff issued a letter to the licensee requesting an updated schedule of when they would submit the required information necessary for the staff to complete its review. In April 2017, the applicant provided all information except for the amended application. As of June 1, 2017, the NRC still has not received the amended application (technical or environmental report). The NRC had planned to complete the SER and EA by June 2017 and make a final decision in December 2017; however, the licensee's delay in

Uranium Recovery Applicant	Application Accepted for Review	Review Status
		providing its amended application will impact the NRC's review schedule. Based on the licensee's response, the NRC staff will revise the SER and EA completion dates, as necessary.
Cameco Smith Ranch License Renewal	07/05/12	Environmental and safety reviews are in progress. Open issues are currently being addressed. On May 2, 2013, the NRC staff issued an RAI on safety and environmental aspects of the renewal request. On April 21, 2015, the licensee submitted its responses to the RAI. The NRC staff is working with the licensee to close remaining open issues. On May 2, 2016, the staff communicated to the licensee that its response to the RAI was incomplete. In December 2016, the staff requested the licensee to provide a schedule for completing its response to the remaining aspects of the RAI. On January 10, 2017, the licensee provided a subsequent update on when it expects to respond to part, but not all, of the NRC staff's RAI. The NRC staff responded to Cameco's letter on April 14, 2017. The NRC staff and Cameco also held the first of several public meetings to address Cameco's development of sufficient RAI responses. When the NRC staff determines that Cameco's RAI response is sufficient to proceed with the review, the staff will determine the schedule for the completion of the review.
Crow Butte Marsland Expansion	10/05/12	Environmental and safety reviews are in progress. The NRC staff issued an RAI on July 23, 2013. The licensee responded on November 18, 2015. Additional information is required to resolve the RAI. On March 15, 2017, the applicant indicated that it expects to respond to the NRC staff's RAI by June 30, 2017. Assuming the licensee submits a sufficient RAI response, the NRC staff plans to complete the SER in January 2018, the EA in April 2018, and make a final licensing decision in May 2018. The Marsland expansion review has an admitted contention that will go to hearing after completion of the NRC staff's review.
Hydro Resources, Inc. (HRI) License Renewal	06/24/13	The sites, located very close to Navajo Nation lands, were licensed in 1998. Construction has not yet commenced. The license renewal review was placed in abeyance on November 13, 2014, at the request of HRI in order to continue its work with the Navajo Nation Council. In March 2016, the NRC approved the transfer of control of the license from the HRI parent company, Uranium Resources, Inc., to Laramide Resources. The parties finalized the transaction in January 2017. The schedule for remaining milestones associated with the licensing review is to be determined.

Uranium Recovery Applicant	Application Accepted for Review	Review Status
Kennecott Sweetwater License Renewal	11/25/14	The licensee has maintained the facility in stand-by since 1983, waiting on better market conditions to recommence operations. Environmental and safety reviews are in progress. On October 18, 2016, the licensee submitted supplemental information related to groundwater detection monitoring. On November 14, 2016, the licensee submitted revised environmental information. The NRC staff has identified issues with these recent submittals and will be working with the licensee to resolve them. The issues identified with this new information may affect the EA and final licensing decision completion dates.
Strata Kendrick Expansion	01/14/16	On May 27, 2016, and September 14, 2016, the NRC staff issued RAIs for the environmental review and for the safety review, respectively. On December 15, 2016, the licensee requested that the NRC cease all activities related to this review. As a result of the licensee's request, the NRC staff is no longer reviewing this licensing action. The staff's safety and environmental reviews, including development of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, are on hold.
Lost Creek KM Horizon/East Expansion	05/02/17	By letter dated February 27, 2017, the applicant resubmitted a revised application. The NRC staff has accepted the application for review on May 2, 2017. The final safety evaluation report is scheduled to be completed in August 2018. The NRC staff continues to coordinate with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in its preparation of the EIS in accordance with the BLM/NRC Memorandum of Understanding and the letter of December 4, 2014, designating BLM as the lead agency and the NRC as a cooperating agency.