



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 21, 2026

Mr. Philip Couture, Senior Manager  
Fleet Regulatory Assurance - Licensing  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
1340 Echelon Parkway  
Jackson, MS 39213

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE EARLY SITE PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR  
THE GRAND GULF SITE EARLY SITE PERMIT- ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.**

Dear Mr. Couture:

On September 24, 2025, you submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), under oath and affirmation, a request on behalf of System Energy Resources, Inc., for an exemption from the regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), 52.29(a) and renewal of Early Site Permit (ESP) ESP-002 for the Grand Gulf Site that expires on April 5, 2027.<sup>1, 2</sup> Your letter stated it replaces the original submittal dated August 28, 2025, requested withdrawal of the original submittal, and noted that the content of the enclosure is unchanged from the original submittal.<sup>3</sup> The NRC considers your submittal an application for ESP renewal for an additional 20-year duration with an exemption request from the regulations that the renewal application contain all information necessary to bring up to date the information and data contained in the previous ESP application.

In your letter, you noted that your submittal is in accordance with Appendix A of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) guidance, NEI-25-06, "NEI Guidance for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 52 for Early Site Permit Renewal," that is currently under NRC staff consideration.<sup>4</sup> The staff has not completed its evaluation of this guidance.

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<sup>1</sup> Entergy Operations, Inc. letter, "Grand Gulf ESP Site - Grand Gulf ESP Site, Resubmittal of Request for Exemption from 10 CFR 52.29(a) and Renewal of Early Site Permit ESP-002," dated September 24, 2025, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML25267A217.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. NRC letter to System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI), "Issuance of Early Site Permit (ESP) for System Energy Resources, Inc. – Grand Gulf ESP Site (ESP-002)," dated April 5, 2007, ADAMS No. ML070780457.

<sup>3</sup> Entergy Operations, Inc. letter, "Grand Gulf ESP Site - Request for Exemption from 10 CFR 52.29(a) and Renewal of Early Site Permit ESP-002," dated August 28, 2025, ADAMS No. ML25240B489.

<sup>4</sup> Nuclear Energy Institute letter, "NEI Guidance for Implementing the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 52 for Early Site Permit Renewal," dated June 9, 2025, ADAMS No. ML25171A132.

The NRC staff has reviewed your ESP renewal application for acceptability for docketing. The application relies, in part, on the acceptability of your request for an exemption from the requirements for the content of renewal applications in 10 CFR 52.29(a), which requires that an ESP renewal application contain all information necessary to bring up to date the information and data contained in the previous ESP. The NRC staff has determined that the exemption request appears to contain sufficient information to enable the staff to begin its detailed review of the exemption. Therefore, the NRC staff has determined that the Grand Gulf Site ESP Renewal application is acceptable for docketing, provided that the renewed ESP would not provide finality under 10 CFR 52.39 for the general, site safety, environmental and other matters that would typically be considered resolved in a proceeding on the application for issuance or renewal of an ESP.

The staff notes that if the exemption and renewal requests are granted, and you decide to reference an ESP that has been renewed without updated information in a construction permit or COL application, you will need to submit all information and data necessary to bring the previous (original) ESP application up to date. The information and data necessary to bring the ESP up to date so that it can be referenced in a future license application may be submitted for NRC staff review in one of three ways: (1) in an update to the ESP; (2) in an application for a construction permit that references the ESP; or (3) in an application for a combined license that references the ESP. In each case the adequacy of the updated information, which is not updated in this renewal application and is not requested to be resolved in this renewal proceeding, could be the subject of a hearing on the application. The current Docket No. 52-009 for Early Site Permit No. ESP-002 will be retained. The determination to accept the renewal application for docketing does not constitute a determination that a renewed permit should be issued and does not preclude the NRC staff from requesting additional information as the review proceeds.

Consistent with 10 CFR 52.29(c), the current ESP remains in effect until the Commission has determined whether to renew the permit. Further, consistent with 10 CFR 52.26(b), the current permit would continue to be valid beyond the date of its expiration in any proceeding on a construction permit application or a combined license application that references the early site permit and is docketed before the date of expiration of the current early site permit.

Once the NRC staff determines the type of environmental review required, the NRC will inform you of 1) a detailed review schedule, and 2) a projected level of effort to complete the detailed technical review.

Enclosed is the notice that will be forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register to inform the public of acceptance of your ESP renewal application for docketing and opportunity for hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Lauron who may be reached (301) 415-2736 or by e-mail at Carolyn.Lauron@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Hayes, Michelle  
on 01/21/26

Michelle Hayes, Chief  
Licensing and Regulatory Infrastructure Branch  
Division of New and Renewed Licenses  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 52-009  
License No.: ESP-002

Enclosure:  
*Federal Register* Notice

cc w/encl:  
Couture III, Philip <pcoutur@entergy.com>  
Norris, Gregory P <GNORRIS@entergy.com>

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF THE EARLY SITE PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR  
THE GRAND GULF SITE EARLY SITE PERMIT– ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.  
DATED JANUARY 21, 2026

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