

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 52-007]

Exelon Generation Company, LLC, Clinton Early Site Permit; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process

Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) has submitted an application for an early site permit (ESP) for property co-located with the existing Clinton Power Station facility near Clinton, Illinois identified as the Clinton ESP site. The site is located near the town of Clinton in DeWitt County, Illinois. The application for the ESP was submitted by letter dated September 25, 2003, pursuant to 10 CFR part 52. The application also includes a site redress plan in accordance with 10 CFR 52.17(c) and 52.25. If a site redress plan is incorporated in an approved ESP, the applicant may carry out certain site preparation work and limited construction activities. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the **Federal Register** on October 24, 2003 (68 FR 61020). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for the ESP was published in the **Federal Register** on October 30, 2003 (68 FR 61835). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) in support of the review of the ESP application and to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process as defined in 10 CFR 51.29. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, "Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act," the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In accordance with 10 CFR 52.17(a)(2), 51.45, and 51.50, Exelon submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR parts 51 and 52 and is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which

provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov. The application may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/license-reviews/esp/clinton.html>. In addition, the Vespasian Warner Public Library, located at 310 N. Quincy Street, Clinton, Illinois 61727-1300, has agreed to make the ER available for public inspection.

The following key reference documents related to the ESP applications and the NRC staff's review process are available through the NRC's Web site <http://www.nrc.gov>:

- a. 10 CFR part 51, Environmental protection regulations for domestic licensing and related regulatory functions.
- b. 10 CFR part 52, Early site permits; standard design certifications; and combined licenses for nuclear power plants.
- c. 10 CFR part 100, Reactor site criteria.
- d. NUREG-1555, Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants.
- e. NUREG/BR-0298, Brochure on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process.
- f. Regulatory Guide 4.7, General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations.
- g. Fact Sheet on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process.
- h. Draft Review Standard RS-002, Processing Applications for Early Site Permits.
- i. NRR Office Instruction LIC-203, Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues.

The regulations, NUREG-series documents, regulatory guide, and fact sheet can be found under Document Collections in the Electronic Reading Room on the NRC web page. The draft review standard is at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/license-reviews/esp/esp-public-comments-rs-002.html>. Finally, Office Instruction LIC-203 can be found in ADAMS in two parts under accession numbers ML011710073 (main text) and ML011780314 (charts and figures).

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare an EIS in support of the review of the application for an ESP and the site redress plan at the Clinton ESP site. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (issuance of the ESP

at the Clinton ESP site) include no action and consideration of alternative sites. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 52.18 to prepare an EIS in connection with the issuance of an ESP. This notice is being published in accordance with NEPA and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the EIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft EIS for public comment. Participation in this scoping process by members of the public and local, State, Tribal, and Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the draft EIS will be used to accomplish the following:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the EIS.
- b. Determine the scope of the EIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to but are not part of the scope of the EIS being considered.
- e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.
- f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.
- g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the EIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.
- h. Describe how the EIS will be prepared, including any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in the scoping:

- a. The applicant, Exelon Generation Company, LLC.
 - b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
 - c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
 - d. Any affected Indian tribe.
 - e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
 - f. Any person who intends to petition for leave to intervene.
- In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include