

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/grand-gulf.html>. In addition, the Harriette Person Memorial County Library, located at 606 Main Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150, 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 at 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 4.2, Preparation of Environmental Reports for Nuclear Power Stations.
- g. Regulatory Guide 4.7, General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations.
- h. Fact Sheet on Nuclear Power Plant Licensing Process.
- i. Draft review Standard RS-002, Processing Applications for Early Site Permits.
- j. NRR Office Instruction LIC-203, Procedural Guidance for Preparing Environmental Assessments and Considering Environmental Issues.

The regulations, NUREG-series documents, regulatory guide(s), 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 an ESP for the Grand Gulf site. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (issuance of the ESP at the Grand Gulf ESP site) include no action and 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 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 environmental impact statements (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 process:

- a. The applicant, SERI.
- 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 including the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- d. Any affected Indian tribe including the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

e. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

f. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.

g. 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 a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC will hold a public meeting for the Grand Gulf early site permit application EIS. The scoping meeting will be held in the Port Gibson City Hall, located at 1005 College Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi, on Wednesday, January 21, 2004. The meeting will convene at 7 p.m. until 10 p.m., as necessary. The meeting will be transcribed and will include the following: (1) An overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the EIS, and the proposed review schedule; (2) an overview by SERI of the proposed action, Grand Gulf ESP, and the environmental impacts as outlined in the ER; and (3) the opportunity for interested Government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the EIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of each session at the Port Gibson City Hall. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the EIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting or in writing, as discussed below. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting on the NEPA scoping process by contacting Ms. Cristina Guerrero by telephone at 1 (800) 368-5642, extension 2981, or by Internet to the NRC at GrandGulf@nrc.gov no later than January 14, 2004. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the EIS. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Ms. Guerrero's attention no later than January 14, 2004, so that the NRC staff