



NRC NEWS

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NRC COMPLETES STAFF REVIEW OF NORTH ANNA EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued its final environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed Early Site Permit (ESP) for the North Anna site, about 40 miles northwest of Richmond, Va. The report contains the NRC's finding that there are no environmental impacts that would prevent issuing the ESP.

The EIS, combined with the recent issuance of a final Safety Evaluation Report on the application, marks the end of the staff's technical review on the North Anna ESP, although additional steps must be completed before the NRC reaches a final decision on the matter. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board must conduct a mandatory hearing on the matter before the Commission can reach a final decision on issuing the permit. The NRC expects to finish this process for the North Anna ESP by the end of 2007.

The ESP process allows an applicant to address site-related issues, such as environmental impacts, for possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at the site. The North Anna application was filed Sept. 25, 2003, by Dominion Nuclear North Anna, LLC. If approved, the permit would give Dominion up to 20 years to decide whether to build up to two new nuclear units on the site and to file an application with the NRC requesting approval for construction and operation.

The NRC staff's conclusion is based on its independent review of a report submitted by Dominion, taking into account consultations with federal, state, tribal and local organizations, and consideration of comments received from the public. The staff's conclusions include a finding that there are no obviously superior alternative sites, and that any adverse environmental impacts from possible site preparation and preliminary construction activities at North Anna could be redressed.

The final EIS and related documents are available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. They will also be available on the NRC's Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1811/sr1811.html> . In addition, the following public libraries will have a copy of the EIS available for public inspection:

Louisa County Library, 881 Davis Highway, Mineral, Va.

Hanover Branch Library, 7527 Library Drive, Hanover, Va.

Salem Church Library, 2607 Salem Church Road, Fredericksburg, Va.

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