



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION FOR EARLY SITE PERMIT AT GRAND GULF NUCLEAR PLANT LOCATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is announcing the availability of an application from System Energy Resources, Inc., a subsidiary of Entergy Corporation, for an early site permit for property located near the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant, which is near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

Last November the NRC held two public meetings in Port Gibson to discuss the early site permit review process. If an early site permit were granted, it would allow the site to be used for one or more new nuclear reactors. The NRC's early site review permit process allows resolution of issues relating to a site before a company decides whether to file an application for permission to actually build and operate a nuclear power plant at that location. The NRC's formal review will address site safety, environmental protection, and emergency planning issues. If the agency approves the early site permit request, System Energy could reference the permit at any time for up to 20 years in an application with the NRC for approval to begin construction.

The Grand Gulf early site permit application is available electronically at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> -- enter ML032960315 as the search term. A copy of the application is also available for public review at the NRC Public Document Room, located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland; telephone: 800/397-4209 or 301/415-4737.

Local residents may view the application at the Harriette Person Memorial Library in Port Gibson.

The NRC staff is currently conducting an initial review of the application to determine whether it contains enough information for the staff to perform a comprehensive technical review. If the application has sufficient information, the NRC will formally "docket," or file, the application and will announce an opportunity for affected persons to participate in the required hearing.

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