

18. REVIEW BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) completed its review of the application from System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI), for an early site permit (ESP) for the Grand Gulf ESP site, as well as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's draft safety evaluation report (DSER) for this application. The ACRS ESP subcommittee began a detailed review of the Grand Gulf ESP application and the staff's DSER in April 2005. The ACRS ESP subcommittee met with representatives from SERI and the NRC staff on May 16, 2005.

The ACRS held its full committee meeting on the Grand Gulf ESP DSER on June 2, 2005. The discussions during these meetings focused on the open items identified in the DSER. On the basis of its review, the ACRS issued an interim letter report, dated June 14, 2005, which addresses the portions of the Grand Gulf ESP application that concern safety. The staff responded to the interim letter report in its letter dated August 12, 2005 (ADAMS Accession No. ML052210235). This final safety evaluation report (SER) documents the actions the staff took in response to the comments and recommendations the ACRS identified in its interim report of June 14, 2005, as described in the staff's response letter of August 15, 2005. The staff issued its final SER after the resolution of open items discussed in the DSER and after receiving the ACRS interim letter report to the Commission related to its review.

During its meeting with the ACRS on December 8, 2005, the staff discussed the resolution of open items and responses to ACRS comments on the major elements of the ESP review. At the 528th meeting of the ACRS, the full committee considered the staff's FSER, as well as the SERI Grand Gulf ESP application, and issued its final letter report to the NRC Executive Director for Operations (EDO) on December 23, 2005. In this letter, ACRS concluded that the safety evaluation report should be issued once the staff has made more explicit its analysis of the hazards posed to the proposed site by explosions in transportation accidents on the Mississippi River. By memorandum dated March 27, 2006, the staff addressed the ACRS' comments, the changes of which are reflected within this report. Both the ACRS' letter report and the NRC staff's memorandum are included as Appendix E to this report. The NRC staff's initial response dated February 1, 2006, to the ACRS is also included in Appendix E.

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