



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. 06-101

August 15, 2006

NRC ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF VOGTLE EARLY SITE PERMIT APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is making available an application from Southern Nuclear Operating Co. for an Early Site Permit (ESP) for property located near the Vogtle nuclear power plant, about 23 miles southeast of Augusta, Ga.

Last May the NRC held two public meetings in Waynesboro, Ga., to discuss the permit review process. 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 NRC's formal review will address site safety, environmental protection and emergency planning issues. If the agency approves the request, Southern Nuclear could reference the permit at any time for up to 20 years in an application with the NRC for approval to begin construction of one or more nuclear reactors at the site.

The Vogtle Early Site Permit application will be available electronically on the NRC's Web site on this page: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/esp.html>. A copy of the application will also be available for public review at the NRC Public Document Room, located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD; telephone: 800/397-4209 or 301/415-4737. Local residents may view the application at the Burke County Library, 130 Highway 24 South in Waynesboro.

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.

###