

June 28, 2012

Mr. Gary Dunnam  
Victoria County Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 1486  
Victoria, Texas 77902

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REQUEST FOR THE VICTORIA COUNTY STATION EARLY  
SITE PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Dunnam:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Exelon Nuclear Holdings Texas, LLC (Exelon) for an early site permit (ESP) for the Victoria County Station (VCS) site near Victoria, Texas. As part of the review of this ESP application, the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is a cooperating agency for preparation of the EIS. The NRC staff is currently seeking information from individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties and cultural resources, such as archaeological artifacts, in the area to identify issues relating to the proposed undertaking's potential effects on historic properties and cultural resources. The area of potential effect for the NRC ESP application review is the area at the VCS site and its immediate environs, which may be affected by land-disturbing activities associated with the construction and operation of a new nuclear unit or units.

Exelon submitted an update to the VCS ESP application on March 23, 2012, pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. It is available through the web-based version of the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The environmental report (ER) portion of the application is listed under accession number ML12131A108. The VCS ESP application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/esp/victoria.html>.

The VCS site is located on approximately 11,532 undeveloped acres (classified as rangeland, forestland, or wetland), approximately 13.3 miles south of Victoria, TX (see enclosed maps). Linn Lake is located along a portion of the site's eastern boundary, while further east, the Guadalupe River angles toward the site (approximately 3 miles east of the northern tip of the site but less than 0.25 miles east of the southeastern corner of the site). Exelon estimates that 7,129 acres of this site would be disturbed during the preparation and construction phase of the project. Of this total, about 6,345 acres would be permanently dedicated to the reactors and their supporting facilities including a 5,785-acre cooling water basin.

Exelon has identified the need for new transmission line corridors. The siting area for new transmission lines will include Victoria and Jackson Counties, TX. The exact routes of the new corridors are currently unknown; however, Exelon has provided probable route characteristics using a macro-corridor approach that outlines options for transmission line routes.

The NRC staff hereby provides notice that in accordance with 36 CFR 800.8c, the staff is using the process required by NEPA for the preparation of the EIS to comply with the obligations imposed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6. Accordingly, NRC staff is identifying parties who may wish to provide information to NRC staff on this matter. NRC staff attempted to meet with a Victoria County Historical Commission representative in January 2012 during the site audit; however, such a meeting did not occur so this letter is a solicitation of any information that may enhance the application review. NRC staff seeks information regarding identification of historic properties and cultural resources on the VCS site; assessment of the effects of the proposed action on any historic properties or cultural resources identified; and development of alternatives and proposed measures that might avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed action on historic properties or cultural resources. The EIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic properties and cultural resources that reflect consultation and will document the NRC staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear units.

An ESP allows an applicant to set aside a site for potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plant units, and provides the opportunity to resolve site safety and environmental issues before construction begins. If approved, the ESP would not authorize the applicant to begin construction of the unit(s). However, site preparation activities, such as clearing and grading the site and building transmission lines, are not part of NRC authorized construction and can be performed by the applicant without NRC approval. In its review, the NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of building and operating a nuclear power plant and will also consider alternatives, including alternative sites.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this ESP application, please contact Ms. Tomeka Terry, Environmental Project Manager at 301-415-1488 or via e-mail to [Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov](mailto:Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Anthony H. Hsia, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 2  
Division of New Reactors Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-042

Enclosure  
cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony H. Hsia, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 2  
Division of New Reactors Licensing  
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-042

Enclosure

cc: See next page

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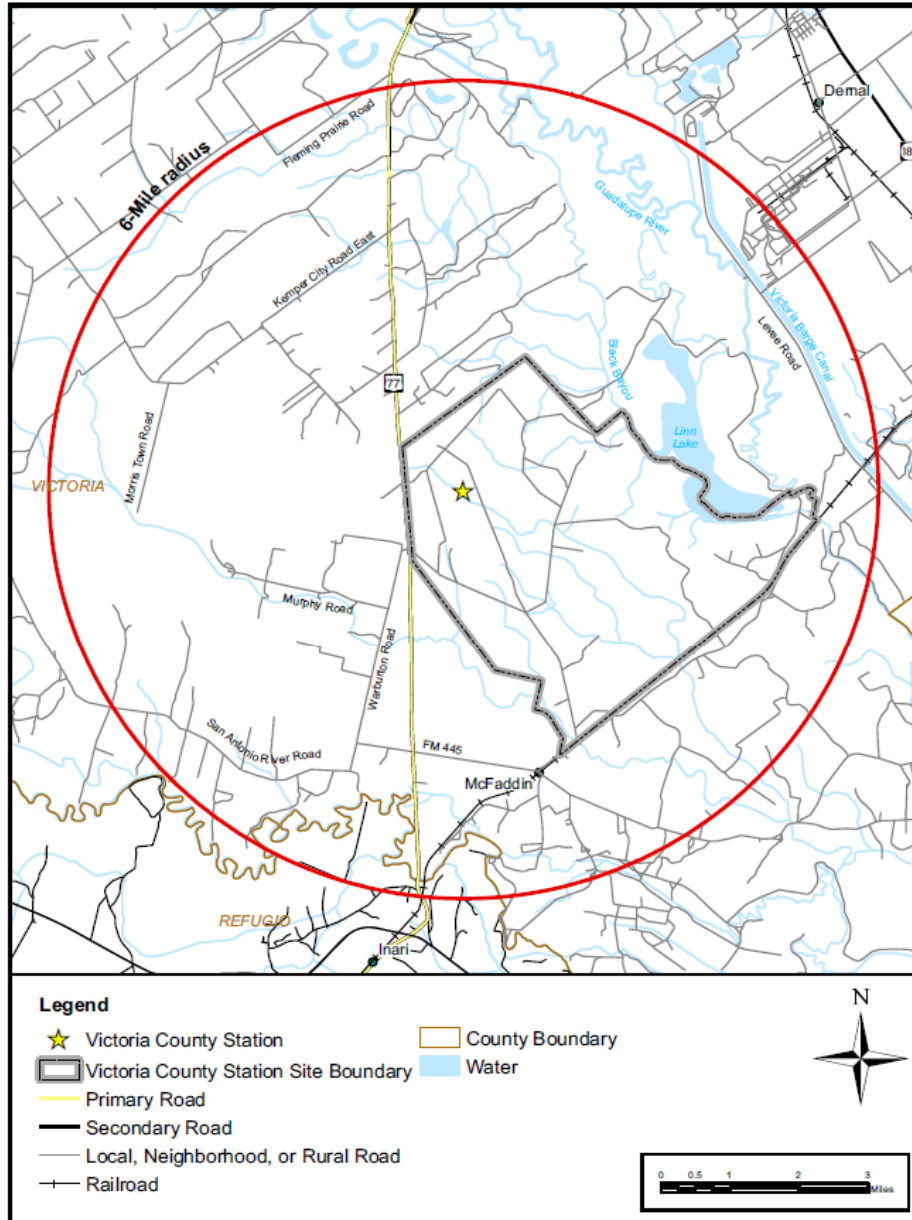




Figure 2.1-3 50-Mile Region