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NRC Meetings April 12 in Oak Ridge, Tenn., to Discuss Review Process for Early Site Permit Application

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold two meetings in Oak Ridge, Tenn., on Tuesday, April 12, to discuss how the agency reviews Early Site Permit (ESP) applications for nuclear power plants. The Tennessee Valley Authority is expected to file an ESP application in May for the Clinch River site near Oak Ridge.

“We’re coming to Oak Ridge to inform people near Clinch River how we examine a site to see if it’s suitable for a nuclear power plant,” said Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, chief of the Environmental Projects Branch in the NRC’s Office of New Reactors. “Our process gives the public several opportunities to provide us information as we review an application.”

The NRC will hold the [meetings](#) at the Pollard Technology Conference Center, 210 Badger Ave. in Oak Ridge. The first meeting will run from 2-4 p.m. and the second meeting runs from 7-9 p.m. The NRC staff will describe the overall ESP review process, which includes safety and environmental assessments, as well as the public’s opportunities to participate. The NRC will host open houses an hour before each meeting so members of the public have the opportunity to talk informally with agency staff.

An NRC decision to issue an ESP means the site is suitable for a nuclear power facility, but a company would have to seek a separate license to build and operate a reactor. An ESP is valid for 10 to 20 years and can potentially be renewed for an additional 10 to 20 years. More information on the NRC’s [new reactor licensing process](#) is available on the agency’s Web site.