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NRC To Issue Southern N.J. Early Site Permit, Following Conclusion of Mandatory Hearing

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has cleared the way for the agency's Office of New Reactors to issue an Early Site Permit for a site adjacent to the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants in Salem County, N.J. The board's [mandatory hearing](#), on the application from PSEG Power LLC and PSEG Nuclear LLC, found the staff's review adequate to make the necessary regulatory safety and environmental findings.

The NRC staff will work to issue the ESP promptly, and the permit will be valid for up to 20 years from the issuance date. The permit resolves a number of site-related issues, including many environmental impacts, but does not authorize any NRC-regulated construction activities. PSEG would have to apply separately for an NRC license to build and operate a specific reactor design at the site.

The NRC staff's technical review of the PSEG ESP application covered issues such as how the site's characteristics could affect plant safety, environmental protection, and plans for coping with emergencies. The staff published a [final environmental impact statement](#) for the permits in November 2015, and a [final safety evaluation](#) in September 2015. More information on the [PSEG ESP review](#) is available on the NRC website.