



Rev. 000
File# 2.01
E-Docs# 3269497

APPROVED FOR INTERNAL USE

STAFF REVIEW PROCEDURE:
Proponent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
For a New Nuclear Power Plant
SRP-2.01-EIS-11NNNN-014.1

Rev. 000

Description of the Proposed Project

Directorate of Regulatory Improvement and Major Projects Management
New Major Facilities Licensing Division



Preface

Staff Review Procedures have been developed by the CNSC staff, as internal working documents, to be used by CNSC staff to assist them in the conduct of regulatory reviews of a potential licensee's (proponent) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as part of its licence application and environmental assessment process for a new nuclear power plant in Canada. They are not regulatory documents, although their respective topics of assessment and criteria are based on regulations under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

The initiative to develop Staff Review Procedures was undertaken in order to ensure a consistent application of the internal processes for the review of an EIS for a new nuclear power plant, and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of such reviews.

Staff Review Procedures are considered by CNSC staff to be "living documents", which will evolve based on the experience gained from EIS reviews.

Context

Environmental assessments (EAs) are carried out to meet the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). EAs identify whether a specific project is likely to cause significant environmental effects, and determine whether those effects can be mitigated.

For new nuclear power plants, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission initiates the EA process when a proponent applies under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA) for a *Licence to Prepare Site* (Section 24(2) of NSCA) and submits a complete Project Description (as per Section 5 of CEAA). Before any licensing decision can be made, the EA must be completed.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared by a proponent as part of the EA process and submitted pursuant to CEAA to support the site preparation, construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of a new nuclear power plant.

An EIS will be reviewed against the "EIS Staff Review Procedures. The procedures represent CNSC expectations and guidance supporting the assessment of an EIS by CNSC staff, and are intended to augment and support EA recommendations by staff to the Commission tribunal.

Effective Date	Rev. #	Description of Revisions Made to Document	
		Section	Changes Made
2008-10-08	000	All	New Document – Issued under Document Change Package (DCP) 3297280

1. Topic of Review

This Staff Review Procedure focuses on the assessment of the completeness and credibility of information to be submitted regarding the “Description of the Project” section of the EIS Guidelines for the specific project. In particular, the review focuses on the information submitted to address “General Information and Design Characteristics” section of the guidelines, and the following project phases:

- Site Preparation;
- Construction;
- Operation and Maintenance;
- Modifications;
- Decommissioning and Abandonment; and
- Waste and Used Fuel Management.

The information presented in the Description of the Project section of the EIS guidelines is used to identify project components likely to interact with the environment.

2. Criteria and Objectives

The information submitted needs to address the information criteria in the “Description of the Project” section of the EIS Guidelines for the specific project (refer to Appendix A for an example of detailed information criteria that might apply to a new nuclear power plant project). This includes the “General Information and Design Characteristics” section, and the following project phases:

- Site Preparation;
- Construction;
- Operation and Maintenance;
- Modifications;
- Decommissioning and Abandonment; and
- Waste and Used Fuel Management.

There should be sufficient detail to substantiate the information provided in the EIS, and to be able to identify not only project components likely to interact with the environment but also the ways by which these interactions may occur. The information needs to be complete and comprehensive, and include reference to more detailed information, as appropriate. Assumptions supporting the information must be clearly identified and justified.

3. Review Procedure

CNSC staff verifies that the information criteria listed in the “General Information and Design Characteristics” section of the guidelines, and the following project phases:

- Site Preparation;
- Construction;
- Operation and Maintenance;
- Modifications;
- Decommissioning and Abandonment; and
- Waste and Used Fuel Management

is met, and is sufficient to identify project components likely to interact with the environment, and is sufficient to support the claims made in the EIS. CNSC staff also verifies that supporting assumptions are clearly indicated, and that adequate supporting information has been provided.

The review, documentation of assessment results and report approval will be conducted in accordance with the project-specific Assessment Plan. Results of the review will be presented in a Review Report template that is included in the project-specific Assessment Plan. The report is to be approved by the appropriate signing authorities. The approved report will be assigned an E-DOCS number under File 2.01 for the appropriate facility.

The Review Lead, as identified in the project-specific Assessment Plan, verifies that the information criteria listed in Section 2 has been satisfied, and is credible.

4. Evaluation Conclusions and Recommendations

At the end of the review, the reviewer must arrive at one of the following two sets of conclusions and recommendations:

- Information presented in the EIS is sufficient to identify project components likely to interact with the environment and is credible; or
- Information presented in the EIS is either not sufficient to identify project components likely to interact with the environment, or is not credible. The conclusions should summarize the instances where the information is not sufficient or credible.