



# U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

## ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD REVIEW PLAN

### 5.1.2 TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS AND OFFSITE AREAS

#### REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES

Primary— Organization responsible for the review of land use information

Secondary—None

#### I. AREAS OF REVIEW

This environmental standard review plan (ESRP) directs the staff's assessment of direct impacts to land use resulting from operation and maintenance of the transmission corridors, access corridors, and offsite areas. The scope of the review directed by this plan should be limited to consideration of these corridors and areas in sufficient detail to form a basis for assessing the impacts of operation and maintenance. Where necessary, the reviewer should consider alternative designs or practices that would mitigate adverse environmental impacts.

In some cases transmission lines may be constructed and operated by an entity other than the applicant. In such cases, impact information may be limited and the reviewer should proceed with the assessment using the information that can be obtained.

#### Review Interfaces

The reviewer for this ESRP should obtain input from and provide input to the reviewers for the following ESRPs, as indicated:

- ESRPs 2.2.2, 2.4.1, 2.6, 3.7, and 4.1.2. Obtain information about the following topics: land-use description of transmission corridors, access corridors, and other offsite areas; principal terrestrial ecological features of these areas; potential geologic environmental input; design characteristics of the proposed transmission system; and land-use impacts of transmission line construction. Obtain any new and significant information, if applicable, related to ESRP 5.1.2.

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5.1.2-1

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### USNRC ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD REVIEW PLAN

This Environmental Standard Review Plan has been prepared to establish guidance for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff responsible for environmental reviews for nuclear power plants. The Environmental Standard Review Plan is not a substitute for the NRC's regulations, and compliance with it is not required.

These documents are made available to the public as part of the Commission's policy to inform the nuclear industry and the general public of regulatory procedures and policies. Individual sections of NUREG-1555 will be revised periodically, as appropriate, to accommodate comments and to reflect new information and experience. Comments and suggestions for improvement will be considered and should be sent to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of New Reactors, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

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- ESRP 5.10. Provide a list of the measures and controls to limit adverse land-use impacts that are to be recommended for consideration in the licensing process.
- ESRP 9.4.3. Provide a list of adverse land-use impacts that could be avoided or mitigated through alternative transmission system operational or maintenance procedures, and assist in determining appropriate alternatives.
- ESRP 10.1. Provide a summary of the unavoidable adverse land-use impacts that are predicted to occur as a result of transmission system operation.
- ESRP 10.3. Provide land-use information for the transmission corridors and offsite areas that is related to short-term uses and long-term productivity of the environment.

### Data and Information Needs

The type of data and information required will be affected by site- and station-specific factors, and the degree of detail will be modified according to the anticipated magnitude of the potential impacts. The following data or information should be obtained:

- proposed routes for corridors that will be used for transmission lines from the plant site to an inter-connecting point or points on the existing high voltage transmission systems (from ESRP 2.2.2)
- proposed routes of access corridors to serve the proposed plant site (from ESRP 2.2.2)
- identification of offsite areas by land use, size, and location (from ESRP 2.2.2)
- land-use restrictions, if any, contained in any easements (from ESRP 2.2.2)
- corridor lengths, widths, and areas (from ESRP 2.2.2)
- land use within the corridors. Land-use information should be subdivided into corridor segments having predominantly similar land-use types (from ESRP 2.2.2).
- if specific corridors have not been established, and only bands are given, a description of land use within the band (from ESRP 2.2.2)
- Federal, State, regional, local, and affected Native American tribal land-use plans (from ESRP 2.2.2)
- highways, railroads, and utility rights-of-way that will be crossed by transmission lines and access corridors (from ESRP 4.1.2)
- land-use impacts of construction (from ESRP 4.1.2)

- basic transmission system electrical and structural design parameters (from ESRP 3.7)
- a description of maintenance practices (e.g., vegetation control and access road maintenance), operational characteristics (e.g., transmission system noise, electrical interference effects, and access road traffic), and their associated land-use restrictions or changes (from the environmental report [ER]).

## II. ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

Acceptance criteria for the review of land-use impacts at the site of transmission corridors and offsite areas are based on the relevant requirements of the following:

- 10 CFR 51.71(d) with respect to analysis requirements to be included in draft environmental impact statements (EISs) prepared by NRC
- 10 CFR 51, Appendix A(7), with respect to discussion in EISs prepared by NRC of possible conflicts between alternatives and the objectives of applicable land-use plans.

Regulatory positions and specific criteria necessary to meet regulations identified above are as follows:

- There are no conflicts between the proposed transmission corridors and the objectives of Federal, State, regional, and local (and in the case of proposed location on a reservation, Native American tribal) land-use plans and the Federal sources shown in Table 4.1.1-1 (plus comparable State sources)

or

- If there are or are likely to be conflicts, the extent of the conflicts, the possibilities of resolving the conflicts, and the seriousness of the impact of the proposal on land-use plans and policies and the effectiveness of land-use control mechanisms for the area can be adequately evaluated and discussed in the EIS or other environmental document.

### Technical Rationale

The technical rationale for evaluation of the impacts resulting from land use of transmission corridors, access corridors, and offsite areas is discussed in the following paragraphs:

NRC's regulations implementing NEPA provide that NRC EISs are to include a section discussing the environmental consequences of alternatives (10 CFR Part 51, Appendix A[7]). The section is to include a discussion of "possible conflicts between the alternatives and the objectives of Federal, State, regional, and local (and in the case of a reservation, Native American tribal) land-use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned." In addition, the regulations provide that due consideration is to be given in an EIS to compliance with applicable zoning and land-use regulations (10 CFR 51.71[d]).

Guidance on (1) what constitutes a land-use plan or policy, and (2) how an agency should handle potential conflicts between a proposal and the objectives of land-use plans is provided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in Question 23 of “Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ’s National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (CEQ 1981). With regard to what constitutes a land-use plan or policy, CEQ states that

The term “land-use plans” includes all types of formally adopted documents for land-use planning, zoning and related regulatory requirements. Local general plans are included, even though they are subject to future change. Proposed plans should also be addressed if they have been formally proposed by the appropriate government body in a written form, and are being actively pursued by officials of the jurisdiction. Staged plans, which must go through phases of development ... should also be included even though they are incomplete.

With regard to how an agency should handle potential conflicts between a proposal and the objectives of land-use plans, CEQ (1981) states that

The agency should first inquire of other agencies whether there are any potential conflicts. If there would be immediate conflicts, or if conflicts could arise in the future when the plans are finished ..., the EIS must acknowledge and describe the extent of those conflicts. If there are any possibilities of resolving the conflicts, these should be explained as well. The EIS should also evaluate the seriousness of the impact of the proposal on the land-use plans and policies, and whether, or how much, the proposal will impair the effectiveness of land-use control mechanisms for the area. Comments from officials of the affected area should be solicited early and should be carefully acknowledged and answered in the EIS.

### III. REVIEW PROCEDURES

The analysis of the land-use impacts of operation of the transmission corridors, access corridors, and offsite areas is an extension of the analysis conducted under the review of ESRP 4.1.2. The same considerations outlined in the Review Procedures of ESRP 4.1.2 should apply. Additional considerations include land-use restrictions or changes that could occur because of maintenance practices, access-corridor use, noise, or electric or magnetic fields.

The reviewer should conduct the evaluation of land-use impacts in transmission corridors and other offsite areas resulting from station operation using the procedures outlined in ESRP 4.1.2.

#### IV. EVALUATION FINDINGS

The review should accomplish the following objectives: (1) public disclosure of major direct land-use consequences from operation of the transmission corridors and offsite areas, (2) presentation of the basis of the staff analysis of the project, and (3) presentation of staff conclusions and recommendations regarding land use.

Because the review for this section is closely allied to the review for ESRP 4.1.2, the reviewer should recognize that some information may be included in ESRP 4.1.2. The reviewer should not repeat the information in ESRP 5.1.2, but should refer to ESRP 4.1.2 instead, including in this ESRP only the additional information specifically related to operational land-use impacts.

Public disclosure may be accomplished by presenting a brief description of the land-use changes resulting from transmission system operation. This section should be prepared as a summary that a non-technical reader can understand. Extensive descriptive material may be incorporated by reference and need not be duplicated in the EIS.

The basis of the staff's analysis may be presented in a narrative summary by highlighting important aspects of impacts resulting from land-use changes. The discussion should include identification of important effects and mitigating actions proposed by the applicant or by the staff. Minor issues should receive minor treatment. Important issues should be discussed in detail.

#### V. IMPLEMENTATION

The method described in this ESRP should be used by the staff in evaluating conformance with NRC requirements, except in those cases in which the applicant proposes an acceptable alternative for complying with specified portions of the requirements.

#### VI. REFERENCES

10 CFR 51, Appendix A(7), "Environmental Consequences and Mitigating Actions."

10 CFR 51.71, "Draft environmental impact statement—contents."

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). 1981. "Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations," 46 *Federal Register* 18026-18037 (1981).

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**PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT**

The information collections contained in the Environmental Standard Review Plan are covered by the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51, and were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0021.

**PUBLIC PROTECTION NOTIFICATION**

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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