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Early Site Permits for Three U.S. Nuclear Plants Sites Show Stability of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's New Licensing Process

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's new licensing process for U.S. nuclear plants has demonstrated its stability and predictability with the issuance of three Early Site Permits.

The Early Site Permit (ESP) process was designed to resolve significant uncertainty early on in the licensing process. The three new permits were granted for the following proposed sites for new nuclear power plants; Clinton (Illinois), Grand Gulf (Mississippi) and North Anna (Virginia).

The old licensing process resulted in significant duplication of effort which contributed to unexpected cost, time delays and discouraged applications for additional nuclear reactors. A new licensing process, began to take shape in the early 90's and continued to develop to correct problems encountered with the old process.

Nuclear power licensing has experienced increased reliability during the last 5 years. The new ESP permits noted above have passed judicial appeals and are now final. The total time to issue those permits was 4 years. All applications submitted were approved.

The Blue Castle nuclear project is likely to benefit from the experience gained by the earlier nuclear plants to apply for licenses, and is planning to apply to the NRC for an Early Site Permit in 2010.

About Transition Power Development

Transition Power Development (TPD) is a limited liability company serving the electric power generation industry by identifying and developing new nuclear plant sites in the western US. The TPD business mission is to select, acquire, enhance, and license plant sites which are very well suited for the deployment of new nuclear power generation. TPD owns or controls the principal assets of its projects. More information about Transition Power Development can be found at www.transitionpowerdevelopment.com

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