

U.S.NRC

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Protecting People and the Environment

Public Scoping Meeting South Texas Project Units 3 & 4 Combined License Application

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George Wunder, Senior Project Manger
Division of New Reactor Licensing

Paul Kallan, Project Manager
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews

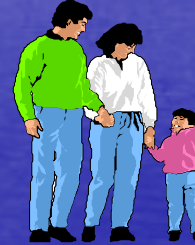
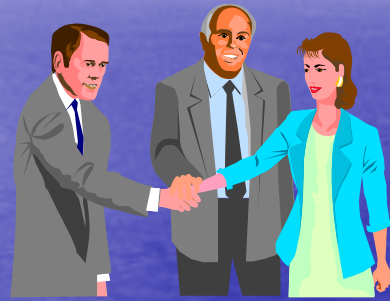
Purposes of this meeting

- Talk with you about combined licenses that may eventually authorize construction of new nuclear power plants
- Explain what the NRC does during the review of a combined license application
- Describe how you can participate in the regulatory process
- Solicit inputs to the environmental scoping process

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Mission: to protect the public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment
- Independent Agency
 - Five Commissioners
 - Staff of technical and regulatory experts in many fields
- Over 30 years of experience regulating operating reactors and other civilian use of nuclear materials
 - 104 operating reactors in the U.S.

Participants in NRC Licensing Process



NRC

- Commissioners
- Staff members
- Hearing Boards
- Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

Stakeholders

- Residents of the community
- Public interest groups
- Other federal agencies
- State entities
- Local officials
- Tribal officials and others

License Applicant –
South Texas Project
Nuclear Operating
Company (STPNOC)

Combined License Application Review

- George Wunder, Senior Project Manager
 - Overall Combined License Application Review
- Paul Kallan, Project Manager
 - Environmental Review

Combined License

- **What:** Authorization from the NRC to construct and operate a nuclear power plant at a specific site and in accordance with law and regulations
- **Who:** STPNOC (operator of Units 1 & 2)
- **When:** STPNOC submitted an application in September 2007

NRC Staff's Role in the Review

- Evaluate whether application satisfies safety and environmental regulations and requirements
- Perform environmental review in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act and other statutes
- Make informed decisions based on the facts and compliance with U.S. law and NRC regulations
- Clearly document our safety and environmental findings
- Follow established procedures that allow public participation
- Maintain an open and transparent review process

What the NRC will review

- Compliance with regulations to ensure public health and safety
 - Design of facility
 - Site Suitability (safety and environmental impact)
 - Means of construction
 - Quality assurance
 - Adequate physical security
 - Emergency preparedness (FEMA)
 - Operator Training

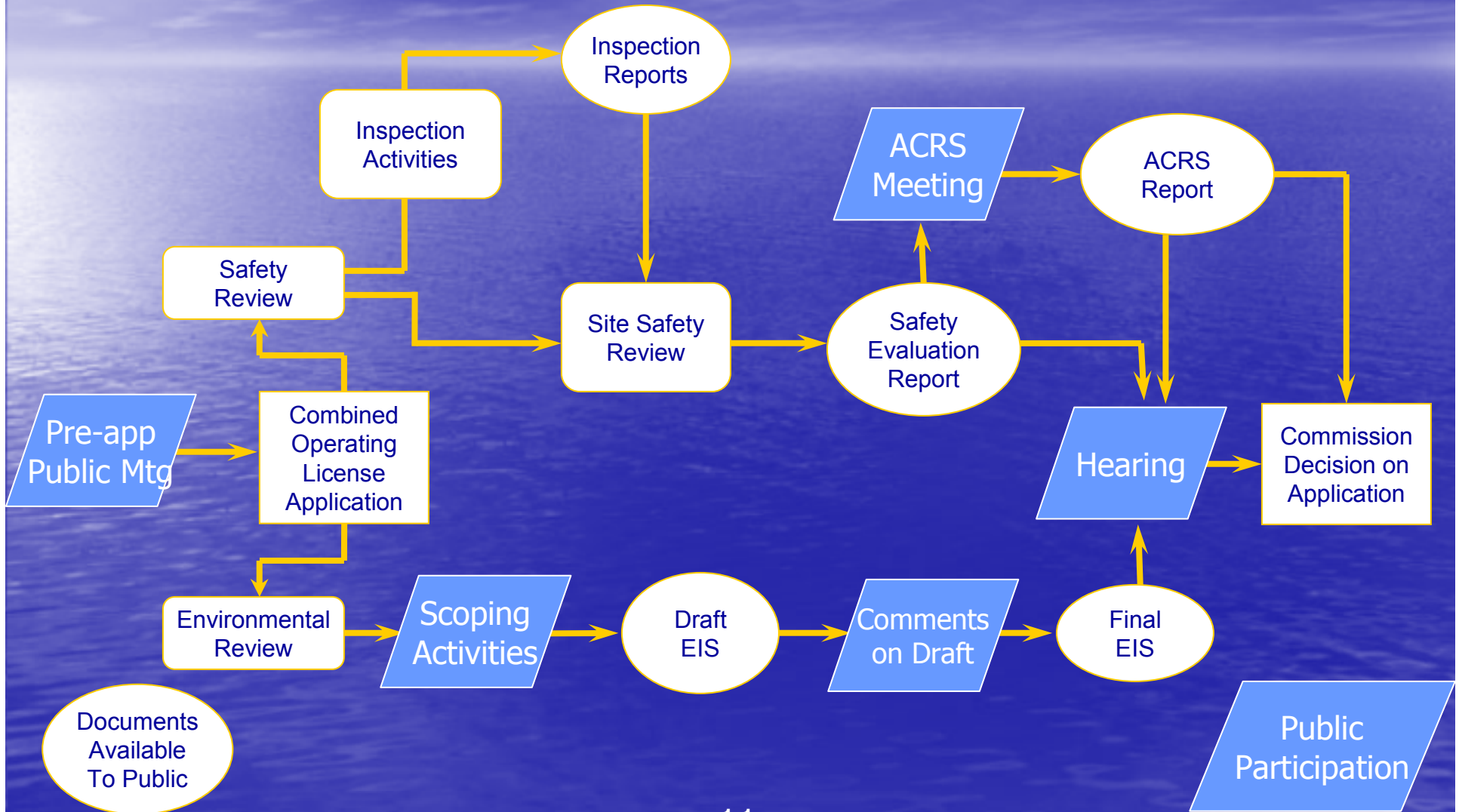
Public Participation in the License Application Review Process

- Obtain information at www.nrc.gov
 - NRC processes and how to participate
 - Publicly available information about the license application
- Attend and observe most meetings between the NRC and the applicant
- Comment on NRC review
- Attend and participate in Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards meetings
- Participate in the hearing process

The Hearing Process

- NRC issues a Notice of Hearing in the *Federal Register*, which offers an opportunity for the public to participate in the hearing as a party (called "intervention"). This was done on December 27, 2007.
- A request (petition) to intervene must be filed within 60 days of the date of the Notice. This period expires on February 25, 2008.
- The requestor must state his or her interest that may be affected by granting the license, and at least one dispute with the application
- Three judges (an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board) will decide whether to grant intervention and conduct the hearing
- A person who did not seek to intervene or was not granted intervention may make a statement to the Board, although this statement is not evidence in the hearing
- Regulations governing intervention are in 10 C.F.R. § 2.309

Combined License Application Review Process



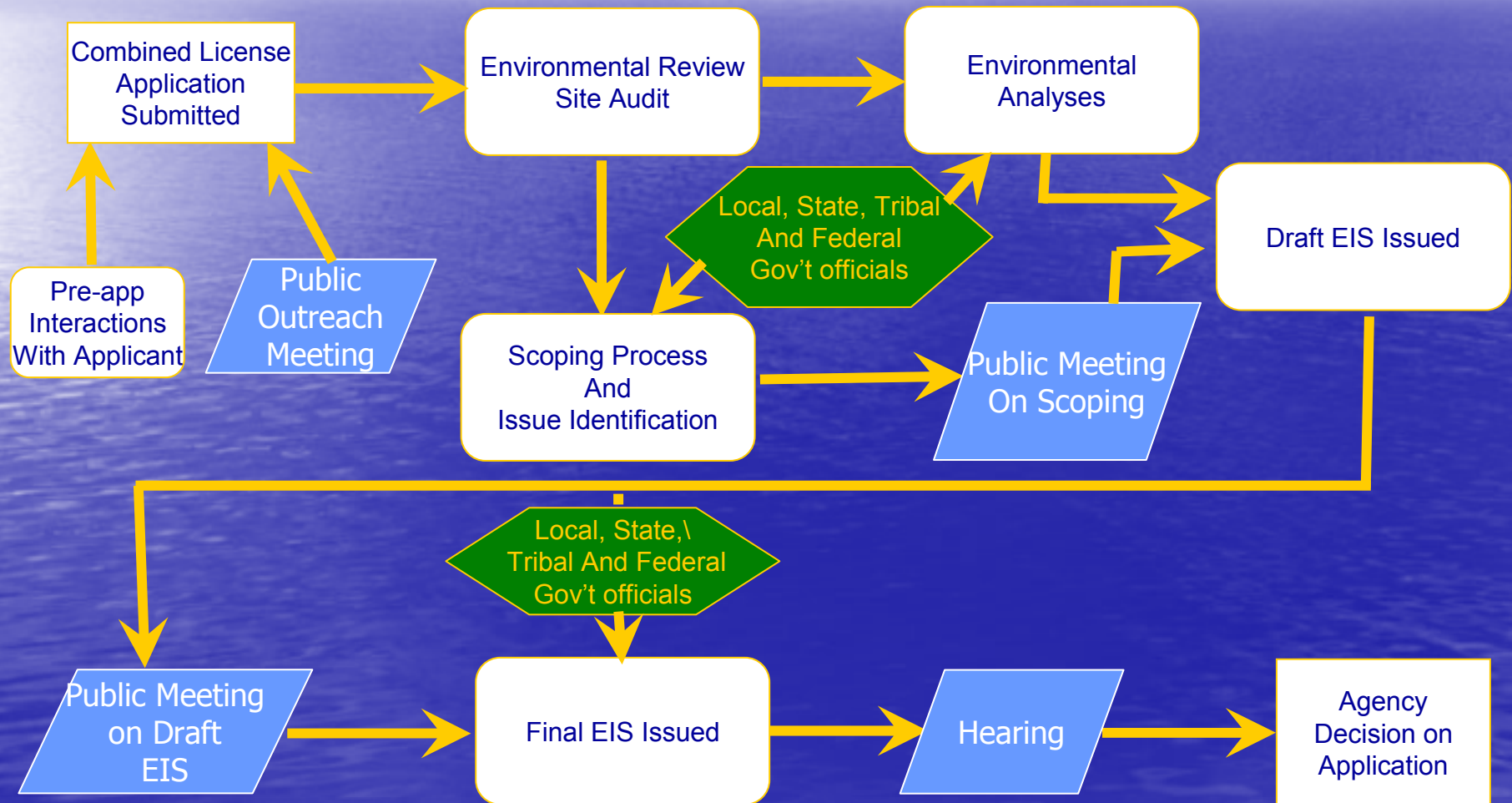
Current Status of Safety Review

- Application accepted and docketed on November 29, 2007
- Applicant asked for partial hold of review because of design support issues on January 10, 2008
- NRC placed majority of safety review on hold on January 30, 2008
- Environmental Review will continue

National Environmental Policy Act

- NEPA requires Federal agencies to use a systematic approach to consider environmental impacts
- An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for major Federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment
- Issuing a combined license is considered a major Federal action

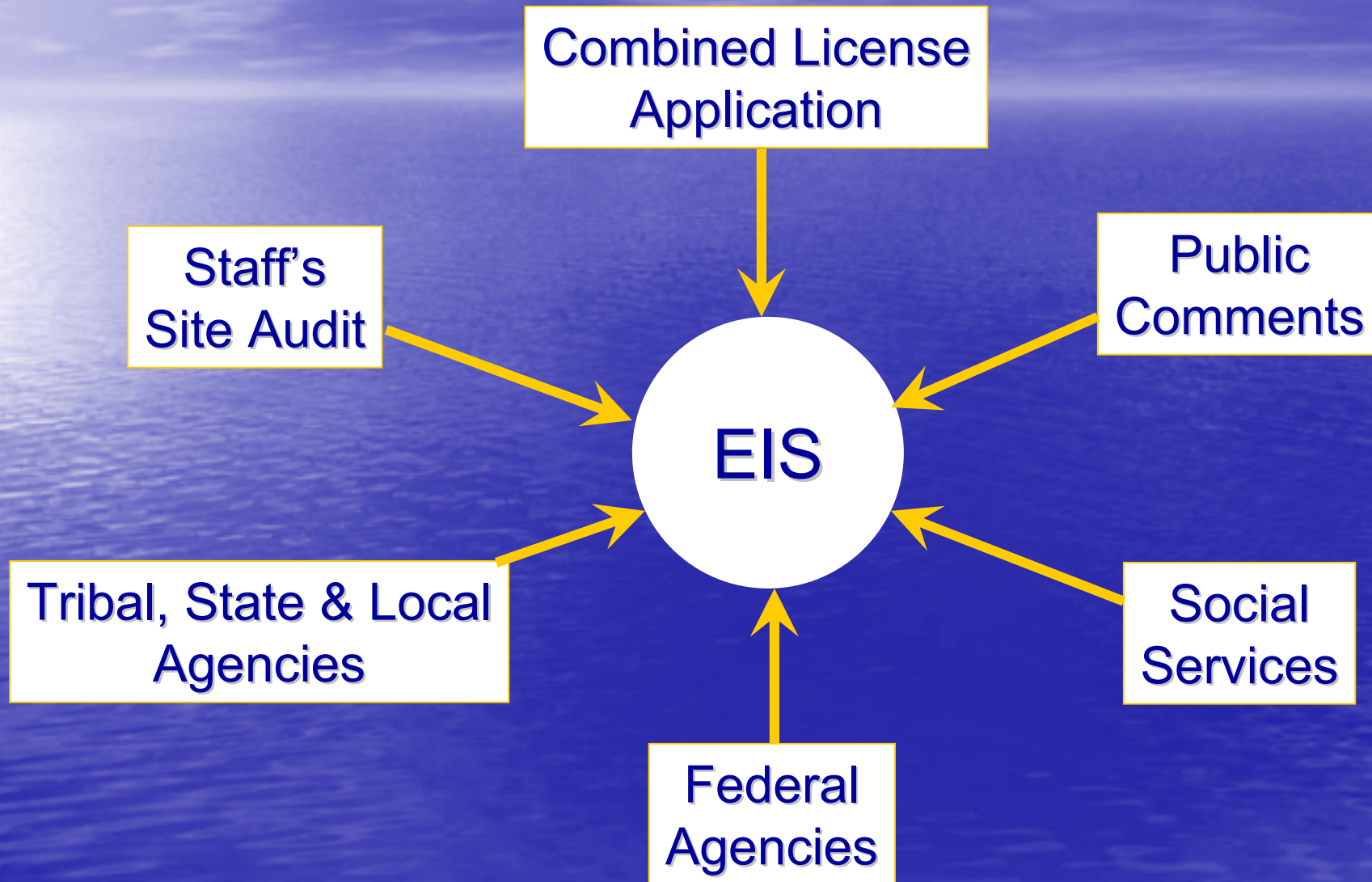
Environmental Review Process



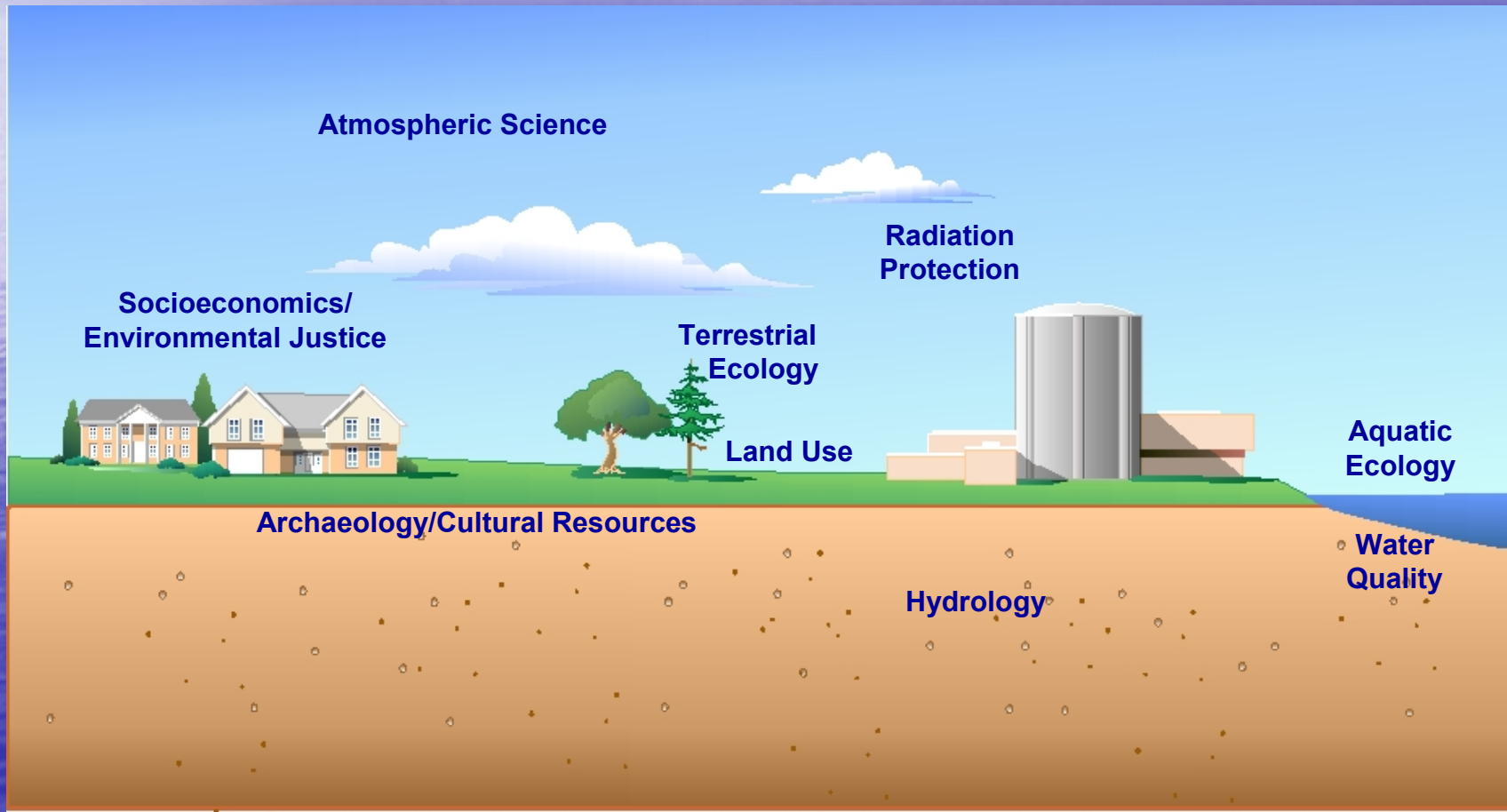
Environmental Scoping

- What is scoping?
- Information identified in the scoping process will be considered in the environmental review
- Comments during the scoping period can be provided through February 18, 2008

Information Gathering



Environmental Review Team Expertise



Current Status Environmental Review

- Staff has begun its review of the Environmental Report
- Normally, Staff will expect to issue a draft environmental impact statement in 18 months
- However, as part of this review, the Staff has identified additional information necessary to determine a detailed schedule

Environmental Review Schedule

- Scoping through February 18, 2008
- Issue draft EIS – TBD
- Public Meeting on draft EIS – TBD
- Issue final EIS – TBD
- The review schedule will be posted on the website

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/south-texas-project.html>

Public Involvement

- Public interaction during environmental review
 - Comment periods
 - Public meetings
- Hearing
 - Opportunity to participate provided; deadline to file petition to intervene – February 25, 2008
 - The commission recently passed a rule for e-filing which requires a digital certificate. Instructions for e-filing are on the website and in the hearing notice.
 - Hearing covers both safety and environmental issues

NRC Addresses

- Provide Comments
 - At this meeting: written comments can be provided today
 - By mail: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Mailstop T-6D59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001
 - E-mail: STP_COL@nrc.gov
 - In person: 11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

NRC CONTACTS

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- William Burton, Chief, Environmental Projects Branch
 - WFB@NRC.GOV, 301-415-6332

Acronyms

- ABWR – Advanced Boiling Water Reactor
- ACRS – Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
- COL – combined license
- COLA – combined license application
- DAC – design acceptance criteria
- DC – design certification
- EIS – environmental impact statement
- ER – environmental report
- FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- I&C – instrumentation and controls
- NRO – Office of New Reactors
- PM – project manager
- PRA – probabilistic risk assessment
- SE – safety evaluation
- SER – safety evaluation report
- STPNOC – South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company
- QA – quality assurance