

January 25, 2008

Mr. Don Klima, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT SITE, UNITS 3 AND 4
COMBINED LICENSES

Dear Mr. Klima:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) for combined licenses (COLs) for the potential future construction of two new nuclear power plants at the South Texas Project (STP) Site, Units 3 and 4. The NRC staff is currently seeking information from consulting parties and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area to identify issues relating to the proposed undertaking's potential effects on historic properties.

The applicant's preferred location for the new units, if built, would be located approximately 2,000 feet northwest of the existing STP Site. The location for Units 3 and 4 would be located on approximately 12,200 acres in a rural area of Matagorda County, TX, approximately 12 miles south-southwest of the city limits of Bay City, TX and 10 miles north of Matagorda Bay along the west bank of the Colorado River. The application was submitted by STPNOC on September 20, 2007, pursuant to NRC requirements in Part 52, Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. The application was accepted for docketing on November 29, 2007, and is available on the public website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/col/south-texas-project.html> and through web-based version of the NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The NRC staff will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives.

As part of its review of the application, the NRC staff will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC staff is using the NEPA process to comply with the obligations imposed under §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Accordingly, the NRC has identified parties who may wish to consult with the staff in this regard. Consultation will include participation in the scoping process; identification of historic properties on the STP site; assessment of the effects of the proposed action on any historic properties identified; and development of alternatives and proposed measures that might avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects of the proposed action on historic properties. The following is a description of the application and the environmental review process.

The NRC intends to describe such alternatives and proposed measures in the EIS analyses of potential impacts to historical and cultural resources. To complete consultation under 36 CFR §800.8(c), the NRC staff will forward the draft EIS to consulting parties for review and comment and will address the comments in the final EIS.

On February 5, 2008, the NRC will conduct two public environmental scoping meetings commencing at 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., and again at 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., at the Bay City Civic Center, 201 7th Street, Bay City, TX. You and your staff are invited to attend. Each meeting will be preceded by a one-hour open house during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis.

Please submit any written comments your office may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by February 18, 2008. Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or by e-mail to STP_COL@nrc.gov.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will send a copy to you. In addition, after it is issued, your office will receive a copy of the draft EIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is to be determined.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Paul Kallan, Environmental Project Manager for the STP COL Project at 301-415-2809 or Cristina Guerrero, Deputy Project Manager at 301-415-2981. You may also e-mail them at PBK1@nrc.gov or CXG3@nrc.gov, respectively.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William Burton, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-012 and 52-013

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

William Burton, Branch Chief
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Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

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***See previous concurrence**

OFFICE	LA:DSER:RAP1	GS:DSER:RAP1	PM:DSER:RAP1	OGC	BC:DSER:RAP1
NAME	G. Hawkins*	C. Guerrero*	P. Kallan*	J. Biggins	W. Burton
DATE	01/10/08	01/11/08	01/13/08	01/ 18 /08	01/ 25 /08

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

cc:

COL STP Nuclear - South Texas Mailing List:

cc:

COL STP Nuclear - South Texas Mailing List

(Revised 1/3/08)

cc:

Mr. Brian Almon
Public Utility Commission
William B. Travis Building
PO Box 13326
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-3326

Mr. Marvin Fertel
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Ms. Michele Boyd
Legislative Director
Energy Program
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy
and Environmental Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Ms. Susan M. Jablonski
Office of Permitting, Remediation
and Registration
Texas Comm. on Env. Quality
MC-122
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

C. M. Canady
City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78704

Judge
Matagorda County
Matagorda County Courthouse
1700 Seventh Street
Bay City, TX 77414

W. Craig Conklin, Director
Chemical and Nuclear Preparedness &
Protection Division (CNPPD)
Office of Infrastructure Protection
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

C. Kirksey
City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78704

Director
Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

M. A. McBurnett
VP, Oversight/Regulatory Affairs
STP Nuclear Operating Company
4000 Avenue F, Suite A
Bay City, TX 77414

Mr. Ted Enos
4200 South Hulen
Suite 422
Ft. Worth, TX 76109

Mr. Terry Parks
Chief Inspector
Texas Department of Licensing
and Regulation
Boiler Division
P.O. Box 12157
Austin, TX 78711

Policy Director
Environmental and Natural Resources
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-3189

Mr. Frank M. Quinn
8 Oak Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2705

Vanessa E. Quinn, Acting Director
Technological Hazards Division
National Preparedness Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20472

Regional Administrator
Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

J. J. Sheppard
President & CEO
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

Mr. Steve Winn
NRG Texas LLC
1301 McKinney, Suite 2300
Houston, TX 77010

Mr. Jon C. Wood
Cox, Smith, & Matthews
112 East Pecan, Suite 1800
San Antonio, TX 78205

Email

APH@NEI.org (Adrian Heymer)
awc@nei.org (Anne W. Cottingham)
bennettS2@bv.com (Steve A. Bennett)
bob.brown@ge.com (Robert E. Brown)
BrinkmCB@westinghouse.com (Charles Brinkman)
chris.maslak@ge.com (Chris Maslak)
cwaltman@roe.com (C. Waltman)
david.lewis@pillsburylaw.com (David Lewis)
dlochbaum@UCSUSA.org (David Lochbaum)
dwoodla1@txu.com (Donald Woodlan)
erg-xl@cox.net (Eddie R. Grant)
frankq@hursttech.com (Frank Quinn)
george.stramback@gene.ge.com (George Stramback)
greshaja@westinghouse.com (James Gresham)
gzinke@entergy.com (George Alan Zinke)
jgutierrez@morganlewis.com (Jay M. Gutierrez)
jim.riccio@wdc.greenpeace.org (James Riccio)
JJNesrsta@cpsenergy.com (James J. Nesrsta)
john.o'neill@pillsburylaw.com (John O'Neill)
Joseph.savage@ge.com (Joseph Savage)
Joseph_Hegner@dom.com (Joseph Hegner)
junichi_uchiyama@mnes-us.com (Junichi Uchiyama)
KSutton@morganlewis.com (Kathryn M. Sutton)
kwaugh@impact-net.org (Kenneth O. Waugh)
Margaret.Bennet@dom.com (Margaret Bennet)
maria.webb@pillsburylaw.com (Maria Webb)
mark.beaumont@wsms.com (Mark Beaumont)
matias.travieso-diaz@pillsburylaw.com (Matias Travieso-Diaz)
media@nei.org (Scott Peterson)
mike_moran@fpl.com (Mike Moran)
nirsnet@nirs.org (Michael Mariotte)
patriciaL.campbell@ge.com (Patricia L. Campbell)
paul.gaukler@pillsburylaw.com (Paul Gaukler)
Paul@beyondnuclear.org (Paul Gunter)
phinnen@entergy.com (Paul Hinnenkamp)
pshastings@duke-energy.com (Peter Hastings)
RJB@NEI.org (Russell Bell)
RKTemple@cpsenergy.com (R.K. Temple)
roberta.swain@ge.com (Roberta Swain)
ronald.hagen@eia.doe.gov (Ronald Hagen)
sandra.sloan@areva.com (Sandra Sloan)
sfrantz@morganlewis.com (Stephen P. Frantz)
Tansel.Selekler@nuclear.energy.gov (Tansel Seleker)
tom.miller@hq.doe.gov (Tom Miller)
VictorB@bv.com (Bill Victor)
waraksre@westinghouse.com (Rosemarie E. Waraks)
wayne.marquino@ge.com (Wayne Marquino)