

January 25, 2008

Mr. Lawrence Oaks  
Executive Director of the Texas SHPO  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711-2276

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

Dear Mr. Oaks:

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 the 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) under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC rule 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 EIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic properties and will document the staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of one or more new nuclear plants. However, NRC, in its review will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation and will also consider alternatives including alternative sites in accordance with 40 CFR 1502.14.

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.

We invite you and your staff to participate in the review of the STP COL application. We will also be contacting any Native American Tribes that may have a potential interest in the proposed undertaking, affording them the opportunity to participate in this process and to identify issues of concern to them. These tribes are being identified by records researched with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, State and local governments, tribal organizations, and through other historical documentation.

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](mailto: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.

L. Oaks

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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](mailto:PBK1@nrc.gov) or [CXG3@nrc.gov](mailto: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

L. Oaks

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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](mailto:PBK1@nrc.gov) or [CXG3@nrc.gov](mailto:CXG3@nrc.gov), respectively.

Sincerely,

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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| DATE   | 1/14/08      | 1/11/2008    | 1/11/2008    | 1/13/2008    | 1/18/08   | 1/25 /08     |

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(Revised 1/3/08)

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