

May 29, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: William Burton, Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews

FROM: Paul Kallan, Project Manager */RA/*  
Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY - MAY 14, 2008, DISCUSSION  
WITH SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY  
REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a conference call with the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, to discuss issues that may impact the environmental schedule for review and action by the NRC on the South Texas Project Site, Units 3 and 4 combined license (COL) application.

#### Background

The official submittal of Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) from the NRC to STPNOC regarding the South Texas Project Site, Units 3 and 4 COL is scheduled to be made on May 19, 2008. A preliminary teleconference meeting was held on May 5, 2008, to generally review and clarify the draft RAIs that were developed. A subsequent teleconference on May 12, 2008, was held to specifically discuss groundwater issues that were not covered in the May 5, 2008, discussion.

#### Discussion

The purpose of the May 14, 2008, meeting was for the NRC to raise the following issues to STPNOC and make them aware of potential project schedule impacts:

- the design change in the cooling tower,
- response time requested from the applicant 45/60/90 days (depending on the RAIs),
- ecological monitoring,
- alternative site selection, and
- determination of the jurisdiction of the main cooling reservoir (MCR) waters.

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### 1. Design Change in the Cooling Tower

STPNOC has requested an alternate design for the Ultimate Heat Sink (UHS) that involves relocating the UHS south of Units 3 and 4 reactor buildings and providing a rectangular geometry cooling tower basin with six cooling tower cells for each unit. It is too early for the applicant to tell us the design on UHS or the location of the UHS and cooling tower basin. With this change, the environmental staff would need to know the impact on the wetlands and open body of water. This may have an impact on the schedule.

### 2. Response Time for RAIs 45/60/90 days

The applicant has requested 45/60/90 days to respond to the RAIs. This is not the usual 30 days that the NRC gives the applicant to respond to RAIs. However, since STP does not have a schedule we are working with the applicant to get responses from them. On the other hand, depending on when we get complete responses from the applicant, this may impact the schedule.

### 3. Ecological Monitoring

The NRC has received three ecological reports from the applicant (three months, six months and nine months), all of which have not provided the appropriate data for staff to start our review. The applicant has taken samples 1/2 mile down stream from the intake structure. Nevertheless, they have not provided samples at the intake and discharge and how it is affecting the aquatic species. Also, the river was reconfigured and this is not reflected in the report. If in three months we receive the 12 month report and it is data that we can not use, the NRC has told the applicant that they would need to start over and this would set them back a year.

### 4. Alternative Site Selection

The applicant provided three alternative sites in the environmental report. They are as follows: Allens Creek, Limestone, and Malakoff. All the sites are located in Texas. Staff visited the alternative sites on March 3 - 7, 2008, and it appears, based on current information that the Allens Creek Site was the only feasible site. The site had adequate ground and surface water to support two ABWR Units. The other two sites did not have adequate ground or surface water to support the two ABWR Units. Staff has requested additional information from the applicant with regards to the alternative site selection. If they do not provide appropriate justification as to why the Limestone and Malakoff sites were among the best, two additional sites may need to be selected which may have an impact on the schedule.

### 5. Determination of the MCR Waters

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) is determining if the MCR is federal waters of the U.S. If the ACE takes jurisdiction over the MCR, this will trigger a set of regulations and may have an impact on the schedule.

W. Burton

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Action Items

The NRC is evaluating possible schedule adjustment options and will continue to respond to STPNOC input, as appropriate.

Docket Nos.: 52-012 and 52-013

cc: See next page

Enclosure: Conference Call Attendees

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Action Items

The NRC is evaluating possible schedule adjustment options and will continue to respond to STPNOC input, as appropriate.

Docket Nos.: 52-012 and 52-013

cc: See next page

Enclosure: Conference Call Attendees

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Docket Nos.: 52-012 and 52-013

cc: See next page

Enclosure: Conference Call Attendee

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**ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER:** ML081410237

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DATE	5/27 /08	5/ 22 /08	5/ 28 /08	5/ 29 /08

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

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William Burton	NRC
Bruce Olson	NRC
James Biggins	NRC (OGC)
Nona Diediker (PNNL)	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
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(Revised 02/25/2008)

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