

June 11, 2008

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To: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Subject: Public Outreach Meeting on Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, Units 3 & 4, COLA

My name is Stephen H. Kale. I am a Professional Engineer, home owner, and resident in the City of San Antonio, Texas. In accordance with the NRC's notice of March 4, 2008, I appreciate this opportunity to submit the following comments concerning Luminant's proposal for Comanche Peak Nuclear Units 3 & 4 for consideration by the NRC. I strongly support the efforts of Luminant, CPS Energy, and Exelon to design, construct, and operate additional nuclear power plants in the State of Texas.

The U.S Department of Energy (DOE) has documented that electricity demand will grow by about 25% by the year 2030. In Texas the demand will probably increase much faster. I do not doubt that plentiful supplies of reliable, low-cost electricity are essential to our nation's economic strength, well being, and security. Large, base-load nuclear plants are now and ought to be in the future essential components in meeting our national economic and security needs. My reasons for saying this are:

- The nation's currently operating nuclear plants continue to demonstrate that they deliver electricity safely and reliably, showing that the utilities manage and operate the plants in an outstanding manner. The latest figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA, January 2008) show that nuclear plants continue to provide 19 per cent of our nation's electricity needs. Regulation and oversight by the NRC assure that the plants are designed, constructed, and operated to exacting, high standards of the industry and the NRC.
- On June 3, 2008, the DOE submitted its license application for the Yucca Mountain Repository to the NRC. As required by Congress, this application describes DOE's plan to safely isolate spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste. Opposition by the State of Nevada notwithstanding, this application is a significant milestone toward fulfilling the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. In the meantime spent nuclear fuel remains safely stored at the power plants under license by the NRC.
- Congress is currently wrestling with contentious and complex issues of how to reduce the emissions of global-warming carbon dioxide. Nuclear power plants do not emit carbon dioxide.

- Gasoline prices and their inflationary impacts on the rest of our economy are taking a terrible toll on low and middle income citizens. Of significance to citizens in the San Antonio area is the fact that we pay 25% less for our electricity than the U.S. average. This is due in no small part to the reliability and safety of the South Texas Nuclear Plants.
- In January of 2008, the South Texas and Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plants produced 3-1/2 times as much electricity as all renewable sources in the entire United States. Renewables as large scale sources of electricity are not now ready for prime time nor will they be in the near future. The U.S. Department of Energy is sponsoring and providing research funding (as mandated by Congress) to develop advanced solar technologies planned to make solar competitive by 2015 compared today's 18-23 cents per kilowatt-hour range.
- The latest EIA figures show that wind generated electricity provides less than 1 per cent of U.S. electricity, although the percentage is higher in Texas. However, numerous transmission and land access challenges remain to be solved and paid for to bring large scale wind produced electricity from West Texas to the eastern part of the state. In addition, wind produced electricity is more expensive and utilities charge their customers a premium to use this "green" power.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Kale, P.E.