

PMComanchePeakPEm Resource

From: Donald.Woodlan@luminant.com
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2009 7:30 AM
To: Monarque, Stephen
Cc: rbird1@luminant.com; Willingham, Michael
Subject: FW: Hood County News Article on NRC ER Scoping Meeting in Glen Rose

Steve,

Here is another article re the Environmental Scoping Meeting.

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HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Nuclear plant 'our friend'

BY DEBBIE SCHNEIDER

HOOD COUNTY NEWS

"Comanche Peak nuclear
plant is our friend."

That's the opinion repeated
over and over by city and
county leaders at a public meeting
with the Nuclear Regulatory
Commission (NRC) Tuesday
afternoon in Glen Rose. A second
meeting was held Tuesday
night.

The meetings are part of the
NRC environmental impact
review as Luminant moves forward
with licensing efforts to
build and operate two additional
reactors at the Comanche
Peak nuclear power plant near
Glen Rose.

Most folks from Hood and
Somervell counties praised Luminant
for a responsible and
safe operation at the nuclear
plant. The first reactor at Comanche
Peak went on line in
1991, and the second in 1993.

Of the 26 speaking at the meeting, only seven voiced concerns and opposition regarding the possible addition of two new reactors.

Water usage and future water needs were mentioned as concerns.

Others questioned the safety and expense of nuclear energy, and suggested future needs could be met with wind generation and solar power.

“We need to get smarter about energy use,” said Karen Hadden, director of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition.

“There’s more ways to build the local economy without leaving a legacy of radioactive waste for thousands of years.”

Hadden suggested that everyone needs to examine their needs, and cut back on energy use. “We all need to ask ourselves, ‘Do I have to waste the energy that I’m wasting today?’”

The cost to build the plant was also a concern for Hadden.

“When they were building Comanche Peak 1 and 2, they went 10 times over budget and were fined during construction,” she stated.

The hearing was not formatted as a question and answer session. NRC officials recorded audience comments as part of the licensing process. Further comments will be accepted through Feb. 17.

NOTHING BUT GOOD

Both county judges from Hood and Somervell expressed support for Luminant’s expansion proposal.

“They’ve always been good stewards of the environment,” said Somervell county judge Walter Maynard.

Hood County judge Andy Rash noted that the commissioners court passed a resolution of support for the expansion.

“Luminant, and TXU before them, worked with us on emergency preparedness for the county,” he noted.

Others voicing support were school board trustees, county commissioners, hospital CEOs and chamber of commerce executives.

Luminant officials have stated that the Comanche Peak expansion would more than double the plant’s current megawatt rating to meet increasing demand.

The nuclear plant now employs about 900, with half of those living in Hood County. The expansion could add another 550 long-term employees at the plant. During the construction phase, there could be around 2,000 to 2,500 craftsmen employed on the job.

AT WHAT COST?

W.D. Kimzey, of Weatherford, acknowledged the economic impact of the plant with an increase in jobs and tax base.

“But what good is a \$22 billion economic impact if there’s no water to drink?” he asked.

Kimzey suggested water from the Brazos River and Lake Granbury is being poured in too many different directions.

“In recent years, we’ve added the Barnett Shale drilling (as another user of our water),” he said.

He questioned the additional amount of water that would be drawn from Lake Granbury to cool the two new reactors.

Kimzey also questioned whether the addition of two new reactors would increase security or terrorist issues. “Since the 9-11 attacks, we (the public) can’t use Squaw Creek Lake,” he noted.

The lake is adjacent to the nuclear plant.

WATER NEEDS FOR COOLING

The two existing reactors at Comanche Peak are cooled with water from Squaw Creek Reservoir.

Water from Lake Granbury is pumped to Squaw Creek Reservoir via a 48-inch pipeline from Lake Granbury.

Luminant spokeswoman

Ashley Monts said the nuclear plant pumped approximately 48,500 acre-feet of water from Lake Granbury in 2008. Of that amount, she said only 40 to 45 percent was actually used in the cooling process. The remaining water was released to Squaw Creek, which is maintained at a relatively constant level.

In comparison, the Acton Municipal Utility District last year used a total of 2,600 acre-feet of water for its 6,600 residential and commercial connections.

One acre-foot of water is the amount of water 1 foot in depth to cover an acre -- or about

326,000 gallons.

The existing reactors are cooled by a method referred to as “re-circulating once-through cooling.”

The new reactors will be cooled in a similar process, “except the new units would include cooling tower systems which use fans to accelerate and enhance the evaporative process,” Monts explained. For the new reactors, plans call for two 42-inch lines from Lake Granbury to cool the units. Additionally, a 42-inch line from each cooling tower will return “hot water” back to Lake Granbury.

Water returned to the lake is anticipated to be about 91 degrees with a maximum temperature of 93 degrees.

With maximum generation, and year-round summer temperatures, Monts said the new units would consume “roughly 62,400 acre-feet per year.” She said that “average” water consumption would be significantly less.

FURTHER COMMENTS

NRC staff will also consider written comments in the scoping process. Comments should be submitted no later than Feb. 17, 2009, either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or via e-mail at Comanche.COLEIS@nrc.gov.

The environmental report is available on the agency’s Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/comanche-peak.html>. Copies of the report are also available at the Somervell County Library, 108 Allen Drive in Glen Rose, and the Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. dschneider@hcnnews.com | 817=573-7066, ext. 255

| WHAT IT MEANS

LUMINANT GENERATION submitted its application to the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission on Sept. 19, 2008 to build and operate two U.S. Advanced Pressurized Water Reactors at the site, about four miles north of Glen Rose.

PUBLIC MEETINGS regarding the environmental impact of the plant were held in Glen Rose Tuesday, and additional comments can be submitted by Feb. 17.

MOST SPEAKERS were strongly in favor of the plant expansion, noting Luminant's participation in the community, good jobs and a boost to the tax base.

SOME ADDRESSED concerns of the cost to build the units, increased water usage from Lake Granbury, increased security issues and the long-term storage of nuclear waste.

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