

PMSTPCOL PEmails

From: Kincaid, Charles T [charley.kincaid@pnl.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2009 6:21 PM
To: nhudgins@cbgcd.com
Cc: shorris@co.matagorda.tx.us; Prasad, Rajiv; Bunn, Amoret L; Diediker, Nona H; ^PNNL NRC South Texas COL; Vail, Lance W
Subject: South Texas Plant - NRC review - recent groundwater permits

22 May 2009

Mr. Neil Hudgins
General Manager
Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District (CPGCD)
Bay City, Texas

Re: Recent Groundwater Applications or Permits

Dear Mr. Hudgins,

As my colleagues and I prepare draft material for the Environmental Impact Statement and the Safety Evaluation Report, we've come across two items with which you may be able to assist us. The first has to do with another energy development activity relatively near the STP property, (i.e., White Stallion Energy), and the second involves a possible proposal to increase the STP groundwater use permit.

(1) Regarding White Stallion Energy, we know they have applied for and may have acquired water through the LCRA for their operation. We are contacting LCRA directly to learn more about that. However, in the press release information we've acquired there has been no mention of groundwater use. I understand from the press releases they are in the process of applying for and acquiring the needed permits for the planned facility. I'm writing to learn if they have filed for a groundwater permit, and if so what annual quantity, number of wells, and target horizon (e.g., deep aquifer I assume for drinking water and construction). If you're able to reveal this information, (e.g., from the District's records), we'd appreciate it because it would then factor into our cumulative impact assessment.

(2) Regarding a possible proposal to increase the STP groundwater use permit, while reviewing the STP Environmental Report I've found mention that "STPNOC will apply to CPGCD for an increase in the site's current groundwater permit from 3000 acre-feet/year to 3500 acre-feet/year up to the current permitted limit...". This language is found in Table 5.10-1 of their Environmental Report. It is the only mention of STP seeking an increased groundwater permit limit. The text is not clear (at least to me) whether they'll seek (a) an outright 500 acre-feet/year increase to 3500 acre-feet/year, or (b) an ability to use 3500 acre-feet in a single year within the existing 3000 acre-feet/year multi-year permit. I recall you or Mr. Simon mentioning that the permit limit is viewed as an average value over the multiyear period of the permit. Thus, either interpretation may be correct. We are going to be seeking clarification from STP on this matter, but I thought that you may have received and acted on such a request from STP. If you could provide any information on this matter, I'd appreciate it.

Best regards,
Charley Kincaid

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