

STPCOLAEISCom Resource

From: Bechdol.Michael@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:43 PM
To: STPCOLAEIS Resource
Cc: Overbay.Michael@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Comments on Draft EIS for the COLs for S TX Project Electric Generating Station Units 3 & 4
Attachments: EIS4NuclearPlantSTXcomments.doc

June 2, 2010

Ms. Jessie Muir
Mail Stop T7-E30
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Muir:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 Ground Water Center has reviewed the “Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Combined Licenses for South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Units 3 and 4.” The document was reviewed mainly from the perspective of how the project will affect ground water. It appears that, based on the information contained in the report, the project should not have a significant impact on the regional ground water resources.

The report indicates the South Texas Plant Electric Generating Station (STP) site already has 3000 ac/ft/yr of ground water allocated to it, while none of the other alternative nuclear locations or other types of energy plants are as efficient in the use of water resources. Recent trends show a decline in use of ground water the area. Using the permitted 3000 ac/ft/yr average withdrawal rate analysis demonstrated that the drawdown would be substantially less than the confining pressure in the Deep Aquifer and have a minimal regional affect to the ground water resource. The EPA Region 6 Ground Water Center agrees with the project review team’s conclusion t hat impacts to the ground water resource will be small.

The report discusses alternative sites and energy types, as well as the addition of two new nuclear reactors, and concludes building Units 3 and 4 at the existing site is the most resource efficient and environmentally friendly way to increase energy supplies. Comments on this portion of the report may also be received from the Region 6 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review team.

Thank you for allowing the US EPA Region 6 Ground Water Center an opportunity to review this document. If you have any questions please contact me via email at bechdol.michael@epa.gov, or by phone at 214-665-7133.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Michael Bechdol
Ground Water Center

Michael Bechdol

US EPA Region 6 (6WQ-SG)
1445 Ross Avenue
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214-665-7133

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