



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 9, 2011

Chief Oscola Clayton Sylestine
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
Route 3, Box 659
Livingston, TX 77351

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT,
UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Chief Sylestine:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) for the renewal of the operating license for the South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2, located in Matagorda, Texas. STP is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe as described below; the NRC process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Section 51.28(b) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the NRC invites the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for STP, Units 1 and 2, will expire on August 20, 2027, and December 15, 2028, respectively. STPNOC submitted its application for renewal of the STP, Units 1 and 2, operating licenses by letter dated October 25, 2010.

The NRC is gathering information for a STP, Units 1 and 2, site-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the STP, Units 1 and 2, site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action. Provided for your information is the STP, Units 1 and 2, Site Layout (Enclosure 1) and Transmission Line Map (Enclosure 2).

The NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the South Texas Project license renewal site-specific supplement to the GEIS on March 2, 2011, at the Bay City Civic Center, Main Hall, Room 100, 201 Seventh Street, Bay City, TX 77414. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 3:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 9:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The license renewal application is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. The accession number for the license renewal application is ML103010256. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's Public Document Room reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr_resource@nrc.gov.

The STP, Units 1 and 2, license renewal application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/south-texas-project.html>. In addition, the Bay City Public Library, located at 1100 7th Street, Bay City, TX 77414, has agreed to make the application available for public inspection.

The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any comments that the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by April 1, 2001. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC at <http://www.regulations.gov> referencing documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2010-0375. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and provide you a copy.

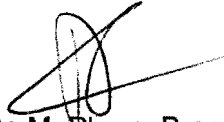
The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication date in 2012), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS.

O. Sylestine

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The issuance of the final SEIS for STP, Units 1 and 2, is planned for 2012. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Tam Tran, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3617 or by e-mail at Tam.Tran@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bo M. Pham', written over a faint circular stamp.

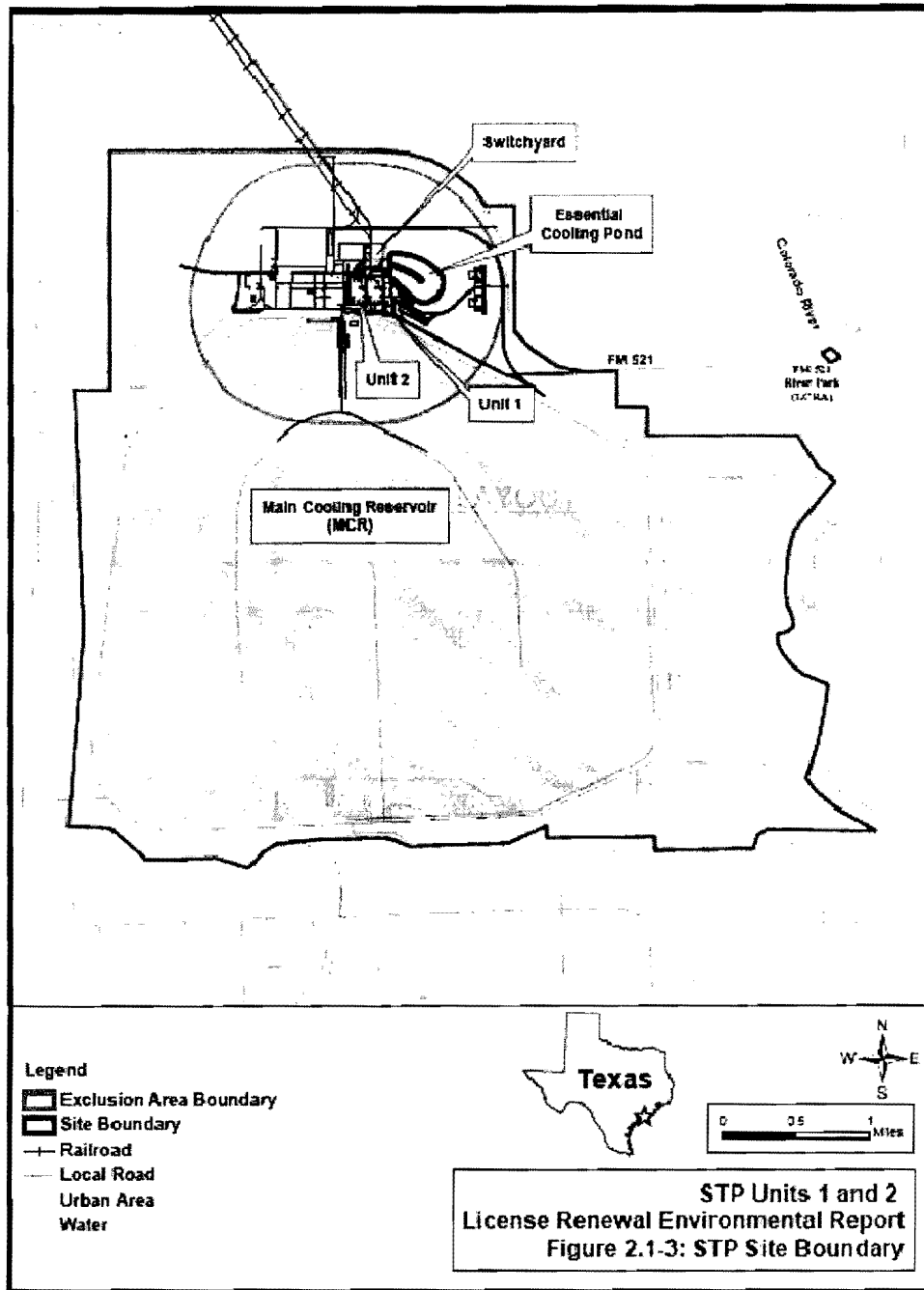
Bo M. Pham, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

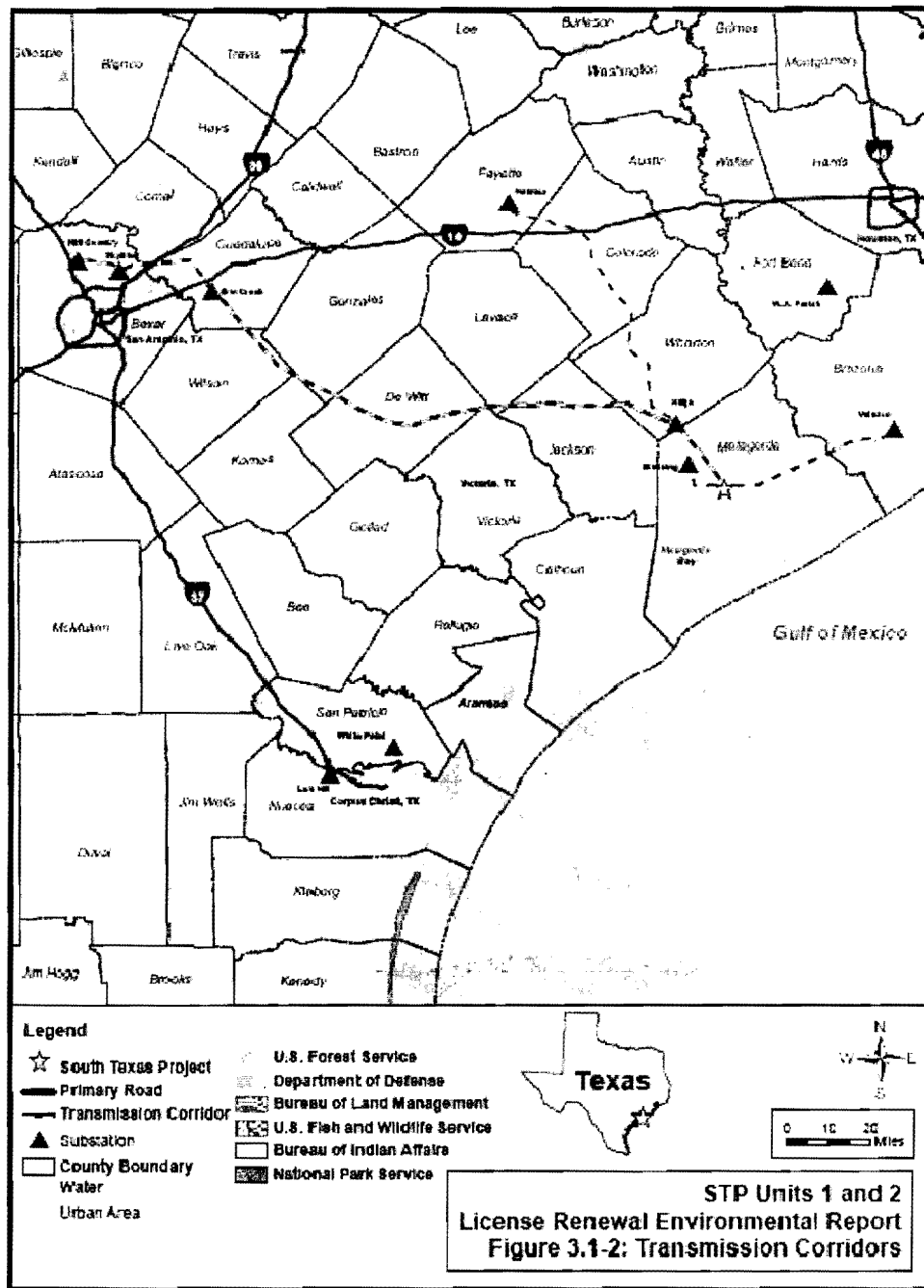
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SITE LAYOUT



TRANSMISSION LINE MAP



Letter to Oscola Clayton Sylestine from Bo M. Pham dated February 09, 2011

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UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

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O. Sylestine

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo M. Pham, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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