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Life's better outside."

April 20, 2011

Bo M. Pham Branch Chief Projects Branch 1 Division of License Renewal US Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

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Carter P. Smith Executive Director RE: Proposed license renewal of the South Texas Project Units 1 & 2, Matagorda County, Texas.

Dear Mr. Pham:

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has received your request for information regarding potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and for information on other issues of concern relating to the project referenced above. Under section 12.0011 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, TPWD is charged with "providing recommendations that will protect fish and wildlife resources to local, state, and federal agencies that approve, permit, license, or construct developmental projects" and "providing information on fish and wildlife resources to any local, state, and federal agencies or private organizations that make decisions affecting those resources."

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) for the renewal of the operating license for the South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2. STP is located in Matagorda County, approximately 70 miles south-southwest of Houston.

For the purpose of license renewal, STPNOC stated that STP, Units 1 and 2, operating under renewed licenses, would use existing plant facilities and transmission lines and that no new construction or changes in operation are proposed. In addition, the license renewal application preparation did not identify the need to undertake any major refurbishment or replacement actions to maintain the functionality of the STP systems, structures, and components during the period of extended operation.

Based upon the project description, TPWD does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources. However, if the project scope changes and new construction becomes proposed as part of the license renewal process, TPWD requests the opportunity to provide additional comments.

TPWD County Lists

To aid in the preparation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed relicensing project, TPWD recommends the use of the county list for rare species in Matagorda County. The TPWD county lists for rare species may be obtained from the following link: http://gis.tpwd.state.tx.us/TpwEndangeredSpecies/DesktopDefault.aspx. These lists provide information regarding rare species that have potential to occur within each county.

4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744-3291 512.389.4800

www.tpwd.state.tx.us

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing <u>and outdoor recreation opportunities</u> for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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Mr. Bo M. Pham April 20, 2011 Page 2 of 2

TPWD appreciates the opportunity to work with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure these projects are developed in the most environmentally sensitive manner as is possible. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Amy Turner at (361) 576-0022.

Sincerely,

Turner M

Amy Turner Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program Wildlife Division

/ajt:15906