

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

In the Matter of

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

(South Texas Project, Units 3 & 4)

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Docket Nos. 52-012 & 52-013

Direct Testimony of

Philip H. Mosenthal

On Behalf of

Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Coalition,

Public Citizen, and South

Texas Association for Responsible Energy (Intervenors)

May 9, 2011

1 **(I.) Identification and Qualifications**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. Philip H. Mosenthal, Optimal Energy, Inc., 14 School Street, Bristol, VT 05443.

4

5 **Q. On whose behalf are you testifying?**

6 A. I am testifying on behalf of the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED)

7 Coalition, Public Citizen, and South Texas Association for Responsible Energy (Intervenors).

8

9 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

10 A. I am the founding partner in Optimal Energy, Inc., a consultancy specializing in energy

11 efficiency and utility planning. Optimal Energy advises numerous parties including utilities, non-

12 utility program administrators, government and environmental groups.

13

14 **Q. Please provide a summary of your qualifications and experience.**

15 A. I have 27 years of experience in all aspects of energy efficiency, including facility energy

16 management, policy development and research, integrated resource planning, cost-benefit

17 analysis, and efficiency and renewable program design, implementation and evaluation. I have

18 developed numerous utility efficiency plans, and designed and evaluated utility and non-utility

19 residential, commercial and industrial energy efficiency programs throughout North America,

20 Europe and China.

21 I have also completed or directed numerous studies of efficiency potential and economics

22 in many locations, including China, Colorado, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New

23 England, New Jersey, New York, Quebec, Texas, and Vermont. These studies ranged from high

24 level assessments to extremely detailed, bottom-up assessments evaluating thousands of

1 measures among numerous market segments. Recent examples of the latter are analyses of
2 electric and natural gas efficiency and renewable potential along with development of suggested
3 programs for New York State, on behalf of the New York State Energy Research and
4 Development Authority (NYSERDA).

5 I am currently a lead advisor for business energy services in Rhode Island and
6 Massachusetts on behalf of the Energy Efficiency Resource Management Council and the
7 Energy efficiency Advisory Council, respectively, overseeing and advising on utility program
8 administrator's plans, program designs, implementation and performance.

9 I was the lead author of a study for Texas that identified electric efficiency and policy
10 opportunities that could be used to reduce the total cost for Texans of electric energy services in
11 2007.¹ I also worked closely with ACEEE on the analysis of efficiency potential in Texas, which
12 included ACEEE's analysis of the savings from building codes. I have also testified before the
13 Texas House Committee on Regulated Industries on HB269 in 2007.

14 Prior to co-founding Optimal Energy in 1996, I was the Chief Consultant for the Mid-
15 Atlantic Region for XENERGY, INC. (now KEMA). I have a *B.A.* in Architecture and an *M.S.*
16 in Energy Management and Policy, both from the University of Pennsylvania. My resume is
17 attached as Exhibit INT00002.

18

19 **Q. Have you previously testified before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“the**
20 **Commission” or “NRC”)?**

21 A. No.

¹ Optimal Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council, CERES, *Power to Save: An Alternative Path to Meet Electric Needs in Texas*, January 2007.

1 **(II.) Introduction and Summary of Testimony**

2

3 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

4 A. My testimony focuses on the adequacy of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact
5 Statements (DEIS and FEIS) for South Texas Project 3 & 4 (STP) establishing the need for
6 power that units 3 & 4 will address.² Specifically, I address the lack of adequately adjusting the
7 ERCOT forecast for additional un-projected electric savings from building codes and standards
8 that would reduce the need for power in the ERCOT region.

9

10 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

11 A. Below I summarize my main points:

- 12 1. STP claims a need for baseload power by 2015, the likely earliest date for STP to
13 begin producing power. However, the analysis of the need for power is flawed
14 because it fails to take into account the significant savings likely to accrue to Texans
15 from adoption of building codes addressing residential and commercial building
16 efficiency over the planning period. My testimony presents an updated analysis,
17 building off a 2007 analysis that the American Council for an Energy Efficient
18 Economy (ACEEE) performed for Texas,³ and shows that building codes in Texas

² Note that the original contentions related to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, however, since then a Final EIS has been issued. My comments apply to both of them, however, tables below rely on the FEIS.

³ ACEEE, *Potential for Energy Efficiency, Demand Response, and Onsite Renewable Energy to Meet Texas's Growing Electricity Needs*, Mar 2007.

1 will provide roughly 2,419 MW of the need claimed by STP by 2025.⁴ (Exhibit
2 INT00004).

3 2. I also show that an *additional* 1,989 MW will be captured from recently adopted
4 Federal energy efficiency standards in 2025 (the Energy Independence and
5 Sustainability Act of 2007 “EISA 2007”). These savings are directly analogous to
6 state building codes, in that they also directly address mandatory efficiency
7 requirements that will affect Texas building owners in the future, and were also not
8 included in the ERCOT forecasts. (Exhibit INT00005).

9 3. Finally, I address the reasonableness of the overall claimed need by STP.
10 Specifically, this should be viewed as a conservative (or high) estimate of need
11 because it assumes 100% of all generation plants over 50 years old are retired, clearly
12 an upper bound for these units.⁵ ERCOT’s own estimate of need based on its latest
13 forecast and projections of available capacity generation do not assume these
14 retirements.

15
16 **(III.) Building Code Impacts in Texas**

17
18 **Q. Please explain the building code savings issue?**

19
20 A. In 2007 ACEEE analyzed the potential electricity savings in Texas from adopting
21 building code efficiency standards. ACEEE estimated that by 2023 cumulative peak demand

⁴ This is based on an analysis of the 2010 ERCOT forecast used in the FEIS. Exhibit INT0003 also shows the corresponding analysis working off of the 2009 ERCOT forecast used in the FEIS. Under that scenario, savings by 2025 would be 2,805 MW.

⁵ FEIS Table 8-5 (p 8-28).

1 reductions would be 2,362 MW from adoption of new statewide codes. Since this time, Texas
2 has adopted both new residential and commercial building codes. For residential, Texas has
3 adopted the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC2009), which will require all single family
4 new construction to meet this standard by January 1, 2012. All other residential, commercial, and
5 industrial buildings in Texas must comply with the 2009 International Energy Conservation
6 Code (IECC 2009) by April 1, 2011. These new codes establish much more aggressive standards
7 for new building construction in Texas than has ever existed before. While the ACEEE analysis
8 did not reflect the exact situation Texas finds itself in, I have made appropriate adjustments to
9 the analysis to show that likely impact of the new building code framework in Texas will result
10 in approximately 622 MW of savings by 2015, 1,736 MW in 2020, and 2,805 MW by 2025,
11 compared with the ERCOT 2009 forecast. Working with the latest ERCOT 2010 forecast, these
12 numbers drop to 494 MW in 2015, 1,404 in 2020 and 2,419 in 2025. Annual figures and
13 supporting analysis are shown based on 2009 and 2010 forecasts in Exhibits INT00003 and
14 INT00004, respectively.

15

16 **Q. Explain the adjustments made to the ACEEE analysis?**

17

18 A. The ACEEE analysis was fairly simple, and assumed a 15% improvement in all
19 residential and commercial new construction electrical efficiency, starting in 2009 and
20 continuing until 2019, at which point it assumed a 30% improvement for the following 4 years,
21 resulting in a total peak load reduction of 2,362 MW in 2023. There were a few problems with
22 the analysis that have now been modified:

23 1. The starting point for savings was January 1, 2009. Because the new codes are only now
24 going into effect, the new starting point is 2011 (2012 for residential), and this results in a
25 delay of capturing savings and lower ultimate savings, all else equal.

- 1 2. The 15% and 30% improvements were reasonable rough targets of what could be
2 obtained with new codes, as compared to the existing standard practice in Texas which
3 was consistent with 2000 IECC including the 2001 supplement.⁶ Now that specific codes
4 have been established, as well as an on-going procedure for regular code updates, these
5 factors were adjusted by year to reflect the current code improvements and expected
6 increases over time. Based on a Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) study I
7 assume an initial decrease in electric usage for 2009 IECC compared to the 2001 IECC of
8 11.4% for the non-residential sector.⁷ Savings for the residential sector is assumed to be
9 20%, based on an analysis done by Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL) at Texas A&M
10 University.⁸ Exhibits INT00003 and INT00004 show these factors.
- 11 3. The starting point for ACEEE's analysis was the most recent ERCOT forecast at the
12 time. I have now modified the analysis based on both the 2009 ERCOT forecast, which
13 STP relies on in the DEIS, as well as the most recent ERCOT forecast released in June
14 2010, and reflected in the FEIS.⁹ Because the 2010 forecast is lower, building code
15 savings are also lower under the 2010 scenario. However, the resulting ERCOT peak
16 demand after netting out building code savings is still lower under the 2010 scenario.

⁶ Note that a few municipalities have had somewhat stricter codes in place in recent years, however, we assume 2000 IECC with 2001 supplement represents a reasonable baseline practice prior to 2011 in Texas overall consistent with the ERCOT econometric forecast.

⁷ PNNL, *Impacts of Standards 90.1-2007 for Commercial Bldgts at State Level*, Sept. 2009, http://www.energycodes.gov/publications/techassist/90-1-2007_Commercial_Nationwide_Analysis.pdf. Note that ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2007 is typically referenced by states as an alternative compliance path to IECC 2009.

⁸ TAMU ESL, *Estimates of Energy Cost Savings Achieved From 2009 IECC Code-Compliant, Single-Family Residences in Texas*, Jan 2011, <http://www-esl.tamu.edu/docs/terp/2011/ESL-TR-11-01-01.pdf>.

⁹ ERCOT, *2009 ERCOT Planning, Long-Term Hourly Peak Demand and Energy Forecast*, May 2009; and ERCOT, *2010 ERCOT Planning, Long-Term Hourly Peak Demand and Energy Forecast*, Jun 2010.

1 Exhibits INT00003 and INT00004 show these estimates for 2009 and 2010 forecasts, by
2 year, respectively.

3 4. Finally, in my opinion the ACEEE analysis was overly optimistic in that it assumed
4 100% compliance with building codes. In fact, there is evidence that even once a code is
5 adopted, compliance levels fall short of 100%. Arguably this was true before — meaning
6 actual standard practice prior to the new code was likely less than 2000 IECC including
7 the 2001 supplement — implying that the percentage improvements ACEEE assumed
8 with 100% compliance may still hold. However, I have conservatively assumed initial
9 compliance in 2011 would be 80% for commercial buildings, and 60% for single family
10 residential buildings beginning in 2012. These are based on a review of the limited
11 compliance studies that have been conducted nationally.¹⁰ Further, I assume these
12 compliance levels will ramp up to meet the current federal requirements that all states
13 reach 90% compliance by 2017, and then maintain at the 90% rate thereafter.¹¹ This
14 adjustment significantly reduces the total impact, all else equal.

¹⁰ See for example, Building Codes Assistance Project, *Residential Energy Code Evaluations, Review and Future Directions*, June 2005, and Zing Communications, *2007 Commercial Energy Code Compliance Study*, Jan. 2007. Also, note that many compliance studies estimate the percentage of buildings that *fully* meet code. As a result, some very low estimates may reflect that a large majority of buildings had one or a few things that didn't quite comply with code. In this case, the vast majority of the energy savings associated with the code are likely still achieved, since codes address hundreds of pieces of equipment, systems and building components. Therefore, I believe these are reasonable but conservative estimates of the ultimate compliance *on a savings weighted basis*.

¹¹ The ARRA section of the State Energy Program (SEP) funding included a statutory provision (Section 410) linking SEP funding to building energy code adoption and enforcement. As a condition of accepting ARRA funding, the state provided assurances they would develop and implement a plan, including active training and enforcement provisions, to achieve 90% compliance with the target codes by 2017. See for example, National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), *State Compliance Requirements and Resources for ARRA Building Energy Code Provisions*, January 2011, http://naseo.org/codes/documents/NASEO-ARRA_Codes_Compliance_Handout.pdf

1 **Q. Explain your assumptions regarding future building code updates in Texas?**

2 A. Current practice in Texas is to consider updates to statewide codes after each new
3 standard is published, and to adopt the enhanced standards conditional on a recommendation
4 from the Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL) at Texas A&M University. Since model codes are
5 developed by numerous stakeholders on a consensus basis and generally focus on pulling up the
6 least efficient new buildings rather than pushing the envelope of potentially cost-effective
7 measures, I assume that these model codes will be adopted in Texas. The cycle for model code
8 upgrades is triennially. I therefore assume code updates occur every three years.

9 To model the increased savings from future codes I estimated future percentage
10 improvements from code updates based on an analysis by ESL for residential code savings as
11 well as a DOE estimate of the improvement of the latest IECC 2012.¹² This resulted in the first
12 updates achieving 39% and 22% better than IECC 2001 for residential and non-residential,
13 respectively. For future years I assume lower increases of 10% for residential and between 4-5%
14 for non-residential for each update.

15

16 **Q. How do the building code savings affect the claimed need for STP Units 3 & 4?**

17

18 A. Relying on the 2009 ERCOT forecast, building codes will provide 622 MW by 2015
19 (likely the earliest STP could be available to produce power), and 2,805 MW by 2025. Adjusting

¹² TAMU ESL, *Estimates of Energy Cost Savings Achieved From 2009 IECC Code-Compliant, Single-Family Residences in Texas*, Jan 2011, <http://www-esl.tamu.edu/docs/terp/2011/ESL-TR-11-01-01.pdf>, and U.S. DOE: http://www.energycodes.gov/status/2012_Final.stm.

1 for ERCOT’s latest 2010 forecast the corresponding figures would be 494 MW and 2,419 MW,
 2 respectively.

3 Table 1 below shows the ERCOT projected need based on Table 8-5 of the FEIS both
 4 with and without retirements, the building code impacts, and the net actual projected need once
 5 these building codes are taken into account. Based on ERCOT’s estimate and assumed
 6 generating assets, there is no need until after 2015 even when comparing to total peak demand,
 7 not just the baseload fraction of load. Specifically, in 2015 there would be excess generating
 8 capacity of 1,229 MW. By 2020 there would be a need of 1,828 MW. Interpolating, this would
 9 imply the need would not start until sometime around 2017 or 2018.¹³ Assuming full retirements
 10 per the FEIS there would still be a need as early as 2015, with a shortfall of 4,894 MW of peak
 11 demand. Actual baseload need would likely be less.

12 **Table 1: Net Need Adjusting for Building Codes**

	Calculation	2015	2020	2025
Firm Load, Less Additional Efficiency (MW)¹	A	68,141	72,807	76,494
Required Reserve Margin (13.75%) (MW)²	B = A x 13.75%	9,369	10,011	10,518
Total Firm Load + Reserve Margin (MW)	C = A + B	77,510	82,818	87,012
Resources, no retirements (MW)¹	D	78,245	79,586	78,586
Net Need, no retirements (MW)	E = C - D	-735	3,232	8,426
Building Energy Codes Savings (MW)	F	494	1,404	2,419
Net Need After Building Energy Codes (MW)	G = E - F	-1,229	1,828	6,007
Resources, with retirements (MW)¹	K	72,122	67,149	59,201
Net Need, with retirements (MW)	L = C - K	5,388	15,669	27,811
Building Energy Codes Savings (MW)	M = F	494	1,404	2,419
Net Need After Building Energy Codes (MW)	N = L - M	4,894	14,265	25,392
References:				
1) Environmental Impact Statement for Combined Licenses (COLs) for South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Units 3 and 4, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, February 2011. Table 8-5.				
2) Ibid, p.8-15				

13
 14

¹³ Note that annual savings grow over time because of the larger load and past buildings built under the code continue to provide savings.

1 **Q. The Table above only addresses the total peak load on the ERCOT system.**
2 **However, STP would provide baseload power. Therefore, isn't it true that these are not**
3 **comparable numbers?**

4
5 A. Not exactly. Baseload is typically provided by plants that enjoy relatively low variable
6 fuel and O&M costs, and are reliably available most of the time. Typically, these are coal,
7 nuclear and hydro plants, which while their capital costs can be very large, are generally the
8 cheapest per kWh to run once they are built. Alternatively, other resources are often used more
9 sporadically because they can be ramped up or down quickly, have relatively lower capital costs
10 but higher variable costs (e.g., combustion turbines), or because they cannot be counted on to be
11 available all the time (e.g., wind and solar). However, currently ERCOT (as is true of all ISOs)
12 meets the full load on the system at any given time, using the most economical dispatch of
13 available resources. So, any reduction in the total loads can translate directly to reductions in the
14 need for baseload capacity, since the “peaker” units that supplement baseload would still exist
15 and can still capture the same differential between the baseload generation and the actual peak.

16 In addition, because building codes generally address improved efficiency within
17 buildings, like all efficiency resources they have the advantage of generally following loads well.
18 For example, the greatest savings from codes should come at those times that buildings are using
19 the most — for example on a hot summer day with heavy air conditioning load. Therefore,
20 building codes have a tendency to somewhat flatten the load curves on the system, thereby
21 possibly providing even greater benefits related to baseload plants by freeing up more peaking
22 generating capacity for supplemental power.

23

1 (IV.) Federal Efficiency Standards Electricity Impacts in Texas

2
3 Q. What is the impact of Federal efficiency standards on the ERCOT forecast?

4
5 A. In addition to reductions in electric load from building code adoption, recent Federal
6 manufacturing efficiency standards will have a significant impact on Texas electric loads that are
7 also not incorporated into ERCOT's forecast. These savings are analogous to those from building
8 codes. However, they apply at the Federal rather than state level. I have estimated the impact of
9 already adopted Federal standards (EISA 2007) will result in an additional savings 1,208 MW by
10 2015, 1,598 MW by 2020, and 1,989 MW by 2025 compared to ERCOT's forecast. Table 2
11 below shows the building codes and Federal standards impacts, and the total need with and
12 without retirements net of codes & standards savings. Together with the building code impacts,
13 with no retirements ERCOT would enjoy 2,347 MW of *excess capacity over and above its*
14 *13.75% reserve margin in 2015*. By 2020 there would be a very minor need of 230 MW,
15 resulting in the reserve margin only falling to 13.43%. Assuming full retirements there would
16 continue to be a shortfall as soon as 2015.

1

Table 2: Net Need Adjusting for Building Codes & Federal Standards

	Calculation	2015	2020	2025
Firm Load, Less Additional Efficiency (MW) ¹	A	68,141	72,807	76,494
Required Reserve Margin (13.75%) (MW) ²	B = A x 13.75%	9,369	10,011	10,518
Total Firm Load + Reserve Margin (MW)	C = A + B	77,510	82,818	87,012
Resources, no retirements (MW) ¹	D	78,245	79,586	78,586
Net Need, no retirements (MW)	E = C - D	-735	3,232	8,426
Building Energy Codes Savings (MW)	F	494	1,404	2,419
Net Need After Building Energy Codes (MW)	G = E - F	-1,229	1,828	6,007
Federal Equipment and Appliance Standards Savings (MW)	H	1,208	1,598	1,989
Net Need After Federal Equipment and Appliance Standards (MW)	J = G - H	-2,437	230	4,018
Resources, with retirements (MW) ¹	K	72,122	67,149	59,201
Net Need, with retirements (MW)	L = C - K	5,388	15,669	27,811
Building Energy Codes Savings (MW)	M = F	494	1,404	2,419
Net Need After Building Energy Codes (MW)	N = L - M	4,894	14,265	25,392
Federal Equipment and Appliance Standards Savings (MW)	P = H	1,208	1,598	1,989
Net Need After Federal Equipment and Appliance Standards (MW)	Q = N - P	3,686	12,667	23,403
References:				
1) Environmental Impact Statement for Combined Licenses (COLs) for South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Units 3 and 4, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, February 2011. Table 8-5.				
2) Ibid, p.8-15				

2

3

4 **Q. How did you estimate the savings from Federal standards?**

5

6 A. I relied on an ACEEE analysis of national electric savings from the Federal standards
7 (EISA 2007), scaled by sector to the ERCOT load zone.¹⁴ For residential impacts, the scaling is
8 based on populations because the Federal standards affect consumer products whose local sales
9 are proportional to populations or households, such as dishwashers, refrigerators, light bulbs, etc.
10 For commercial and industrial impacts I scaled the national estimates by commercial and
11 industrial electric usage. These standards impact energy using equipment in buildings in
12 factories. Because commercial and industrial energy usage is much less homogenous to

1 residential, these impacts should be highly proportional to overall electric usage. Exhibit
2 INT0005 shows the EISA 2007 analysis.

3 **(V.) Overall Conservatism of Net Need for Future Power**

4

5 **Q. Please explain why you view the EIS need for power to overestimate the likely need**
6 **with retirements?**

7

8 A. The FEIS considers the need for power both with and without retirements. However,
9 ERCOT has not projected any retirements of future generating capacity. Because the lead time
10 for retirements can be short, and it is likely that future environmental regulations may result in
11 significant coal plant retirements, the FEIS has also considered the need with assumed
12 retirements. FEIS figures in Table 8-5 (used for Tables 1 and 2 above) assume 100% of all plants
13 older than 50 years would be retired under the retirement scenario. Clearly for the 50 year and
14 older plants this assumption reflects an upper bound of what is possible, and very likely much
15 higher than will actually occur. While some retirements may happen, assuming such a large loss
16 of baseload power when there are no current plans for retirement, nor any current regulations that
17 would force retirements, seems excessive and speculative.

18

19 **Q. Are there other conservatisms in the estimated need for power?**

20 A. Yes. First, even adding in the EISA 2007 impacts still underestimates the many Federal
21 efficiency requirements that have been adopted through rulemaking since then. I have not had

¹⁴ ACEEE, *Appliance Efficiency Standards in the 2007 Energy Bill: Key Facts*, Dec 2007, <http://www.aceee.org/files/pdf/fact-sheet/EnergyBillSavings12-14.pdf>. National figures were scaled to the State of Texas, and then adjusted downward by 15% to reflect ERCOT estimated at 85% of the Texas electric load (FEIS p. 8-2).

1 the time or resources to analyze these additional reductions, however, I believe the impacts
2 would likely be of the same magnitude as the EISA 2007 impacts. For example, starting in 2012
3 the Federal rules prohibit manufacture and sale of T12 fluorescent lamps. These inefficient lamps
4 are still widely used by commercial and industrial facilities. As a result, there will be a large
5 conversion to the newer, more efficient T8 fluorescent technology over the next few years that is
6 not accounted for in ERCOT's forecast. This single rule will result in very large impacts.

7 In addition to codes & standards, it is highly likely that more small generation will be
8 built in the future in Texas. For example, as renewable costs come down end-users may install
9 distributed generation equipment that is interconnected to the grid. In addition, with gas costs
10 low and forecasted to stay that way, it is likely that natural gas combined cycle plants could
11 economically outperform new nuclear units and be brought on to serve baseload power. Finally,
12 it is highly likely that investments in DSM will continue to expand beyond those currently
13 planned. All these things lead me to believe that likely actual need will be smaller than projected
14 by the FEIS with retirements scenario.

15

16 **Q. Isn't it risky to not project retirements, given the long lead time of building nuclear**
17 **units?**

18

19 A. No. Delaying or deferring the building of new nuclear units provides significant
20 economic value, even if they eventually are needed. In addition, delay allows for more certainty
21 about future energy markets, as well as technological advancement, which is especially critical at
22 this moment. We are currently experience relatively cheap natural gas and expectations of large
23 Texas gas resources that will be available. However, there are significant uncertainties around
24 new natural gas extraction methods and environmental issues that could dramatically change
25 over the next few years. In addition, we are seeing steep cost declines in some alternative

1 resources, such as solar, that may make the nuclear units no longer as cost-effective. Also, while
2 the NRC has found that addressing potential future increases in energy efficiency programs in
3 Texas is not a timely issue for the FEIS, in fact there is likely to be substantial additional electric
4 resources captured in Texas from demand-side management programs that have not been
5 considered.¹⁵ Also, Texas has substantial mothballed plants that provide a hedge against a poor
6 forecast or delays in future construction. Finally, demand response programs can very quickly
7 and cheaply be ramped up in Texas to shave a significant portion of peak demand, thereby
8 freeing up reserve capacity in the short term if indeed retirements occur quickly and
9 unexpectedly. For all these reasons, the prudent course of action is to conduct further analysis
10 modeling these issues, which will allow for greater certainty about the need.

11 **(VI.) Conclusions**

12

13 **Q. Please summarize your overall conclusions from your analysis?**

14

15 A. My analysis shows that the FEIS has failed to adequately show a need for the STP by
16 2015-2020 (the likely range of dates where STP could begin power production) because:

17

- 18 1. The FEIS failed to adjust the ERCOT forecast for reductions in load resulting from
19 building codes; and
- 20 2. The FEIS failed to adjust the ERCOT forecast for reductions in load resulting from
21 Federal efficiency standards; and
- 22 3. STP's claim of a need for new power inappropriately assumes a much lower future
23 generation capacity than ERCOT does by assuming future retirements that are not
24 adequately established or planned, and should be viewed as an upper bound (or worst
25 case) estimate of the likely need.

¹⁵ FEIS pp.8-30, 8-31.

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Overall, the need for STP Units 3 and 4 is not proven, given ERCOTs estimates of forecasted load, the energy reductions that will come from building codes and standards, and ERCOT's projections of generating capacity. Rather, ERCOT should enjoy an excess reserve margin as late as 2020 (without retirements) after taking these issues into account, resulting in no need for additional power. Given the high risk and long lead time of building new nuclear units, there is high value in delaying these new units. In addition, it is likely over time that more renewable resources will come on line, and with gas inexpensive perhaps additional gas generation, and significant DSM. Finally, the existence of of mothballed plants and demand response resources can provide a hedge against higher than expected need. Therefore, NRC should decline to approve the STP at this time.

Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

A. Yes.