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## 1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of the proposed project at the Victoria County Station (VCS) site that is the subject of this Environmental Report (ER). A brief description is given regarding the applicants, purpose and need, general plant description, status of permits and required consultations, and the underlying methodology of the report presentation.

These items are presented in the following subsections:

- The Proposed Project ([Section 1.1](#))
- Status of Reviews, Approvals, and Consultations ([Section 1.2](#))

### 1.1 The Proposed Project

This section provides a brief description of the proposed project, the applicant and owner, the site location, the selected reactor types and other plant design features, pre-application public participation activities, and major project activity dates.

The proposed action is the issuance of an ESP approving the VCS site as suitable for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power generating facility. The ER provides an analysis of the impacts to the environment from site preparation, construction, operation, and decommissioning of VCS. This proposed action does not include any decision or approval to build the facility, which would be considered at the time of filing of an application for a combined license (COL). Exelon Nuclear Texas Holdings, LLC, has identified no constraints on the review process as of the date of application submittal.

#### 1.1.1 The Applicant and Owner

Exelon Nuclear Texas Holdings, LLC, (hereafter referred to as Exelon) is the applicant and owner having authority to act as the agent and sole point of contact for the NRC in all matters related to this ESP application. Additional information about the organizational structure of Exelon is provided in Part 1 of this ESP application.

#### 1.1.2 Site Location

VCS is located on approximately 11,500 acres in a rural area of Victoria County, Texas, approximately 13.3 miles south of the city of Victoria, Texas, the county seat. The power block area of the site is approximately 4.1 miles west of the Guadalupe River. The site property boundary runs through Linn Lake on the east and runs adjacent to U.S. Highway 77 on the west and the Union Pacific Railway on the southeast. [Figure 1.1-1](#) shows the location of the VCS site and regional features of the area. [Figure 1.1-2](#) shows VCS site features. Additional information regarding the VCS location is provided in Section 2.1, Station Location.

### 1.1.3 Reactor Information

This ESP application is intended to demonstrate the suitability of the VCS site for construction and operation of a nuclear power generating facility. No specific plant design has been chosen for the VCS site. Instead, a set of plant design parameters has been developed to envelop future site development. The reactor technologies upon which this set of plant design parameters is based include:

- Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) (General Electric and Toshiba designs)
- Advanced Passive Pressurized Water Reactor (AP1000) (Westinghouse design)
- Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) (General Electric–Hitachi design)
- Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (APWR) (Mitsubishi design)
- mPower (Babcock & Wilcox design)

Selection of a reactor to be used at the VCS site will not be limited to those listed above. The final selected reactor may be a future design that is bounded by the surrogate plant design reflected in Table 3.1-1.

It is estimated that the selected reactor or reactors will be capable of generating a combined core thermal power level of up to 9000 MWt. Additional information regarding reactors is provided in Chapter 3.

### 1.1.4 Cooling System Information

The VCS cooling basin dissipates heat from the power cycle by transferring heat from the main condenser via the circulating water system (CWS) and other nonsafety-related heat exchangers of the plant to the environment. The cooling basin would also provide makeup water to the mechanical draft cooling towers associated with the service water cooling system for each unit. Additionally, the cooling basin would provide makeup water to the external ultimate heat sink (UHS), if included in the selected plant design.

The CWS operates in a closed loop as the cooling basin supplies cooling water at one end through a common pump intake structure and receives the heated water at the other end via a common discharge structure. The cooling basin surface area provides the mechanism for dissipation of heat to the atmosphere.

Makeup water is supplied to the cooling basin via the raw water makeup (RWMU) system, which includes a pumphouse located adjacent to the Guadalupe River and a water supply pipeline. Makeup

water is obtained from the Guadalupe River. The makeup water supply to the cooling basin compensates for evaporation, seepage, and blowdown. Cooling basin blowdown water and treated radwaste effluent will be discharged to the Guadalupe River via a diffuser. Blowdown is conveyed to the diffuser by a subsurface pipeline that follows the route of the VCS heavy haul road to the boundary of the VCS site and then parallels the Victoria County Navigation District (VCND) transportation corridor to its intersection with the Guadalupe River. Additional details on water use are provided in Section 3.3, Plant Water Use.

### **1.1.5 Transmission System Information**

The VCS site will be served by the American Electric Power (AEP) WHY substation to be located on the northwest side of the power block area. AEP will be the transmission service provider and responsible for construction of the new transmission circuits to be built in association with the proposed VCS project. The onsite AEP WHY substation will cover about 90 acres. A 345 kV interconnection will be needed to tie VCS into the AEP grid (AEP May 2008). Six 345 kV transmission routes will connect the VCS substation to Coletto Creek, Hillje, Blessing, Whitepoint, Cholla, and South Texas Project substations. The lines between VCS and Coletto Creek and between VCS and Cholla will require new rights-of-way. The VCS-Coletto Creek 345 kV right-of-way corridor is expected to be 150 feet wide and contain one double-circuit. The line between VCS and Cholla will be a single-circuit/345 kV. The details of the other substation connections and right-of-way corridors, primarily using existing rights-of-way, are provided in Section 3.7, Power Transmission System.

### **1.1.6 Pre-application Public Involvement**

Exelon has an active community affairs and public outreach program. The community outreach principles include:

- Remaining open, honest, and accessible to the general public and key stakeholders through the ESP process
- Keeping state agencies and business organizations informed regarding the progression of the proposed project by meeting and briefings of public officials from Victoria and neighboring counties
- Using media opportunities with the public to explain the site selection and licensing processes and outcome
- Remaining accessible to the general public by answering questions and inquiries that come to Exelon

These principles will continue as the regulatory review processes progress at the local, state, and federal levels.

### **1.1.7 Proposed Dates for Major Activities**

At this time, Exelon has not established a date for preconstruction activities. It is estimated that site preparation activities (preconstruction) will take approximately 18 months to complete. Subject to required regulatory approvals and a decision to build, it is estimated that the first concrete pour would occur approximately 6 months after approval of the COL. Based on sequential construction of two large advanced light-water reactors, which is assumed to be a representative construction scenario for evaluating potential preconstruction and construction impacts at the VCS site, the duration for construction of the units would be 4 to 5 years. Pre-operational testing would occur during the last 8 months of construction. Fuel load would commence near the end of pre-operational testing and would require approximately 8 months to complete. A milestone schedule would be provided at the time of COL application.

### **1.1.8 References**

AEP May 2008. American Electric Power, *Interconnection Study for New Generation in Victoria County*, May 28, 2008.

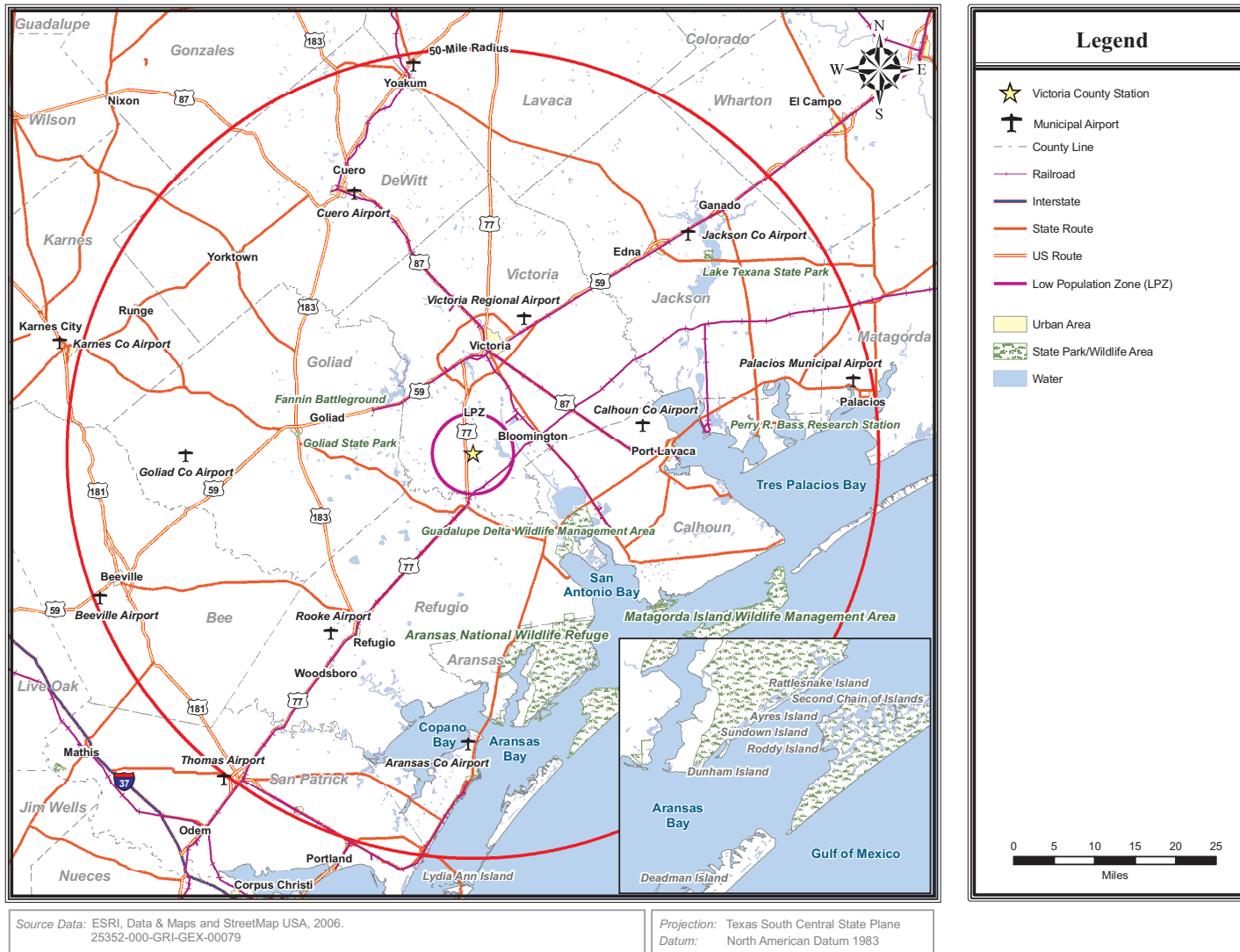


Figure 1.1-1 VCS Location and Regional Area



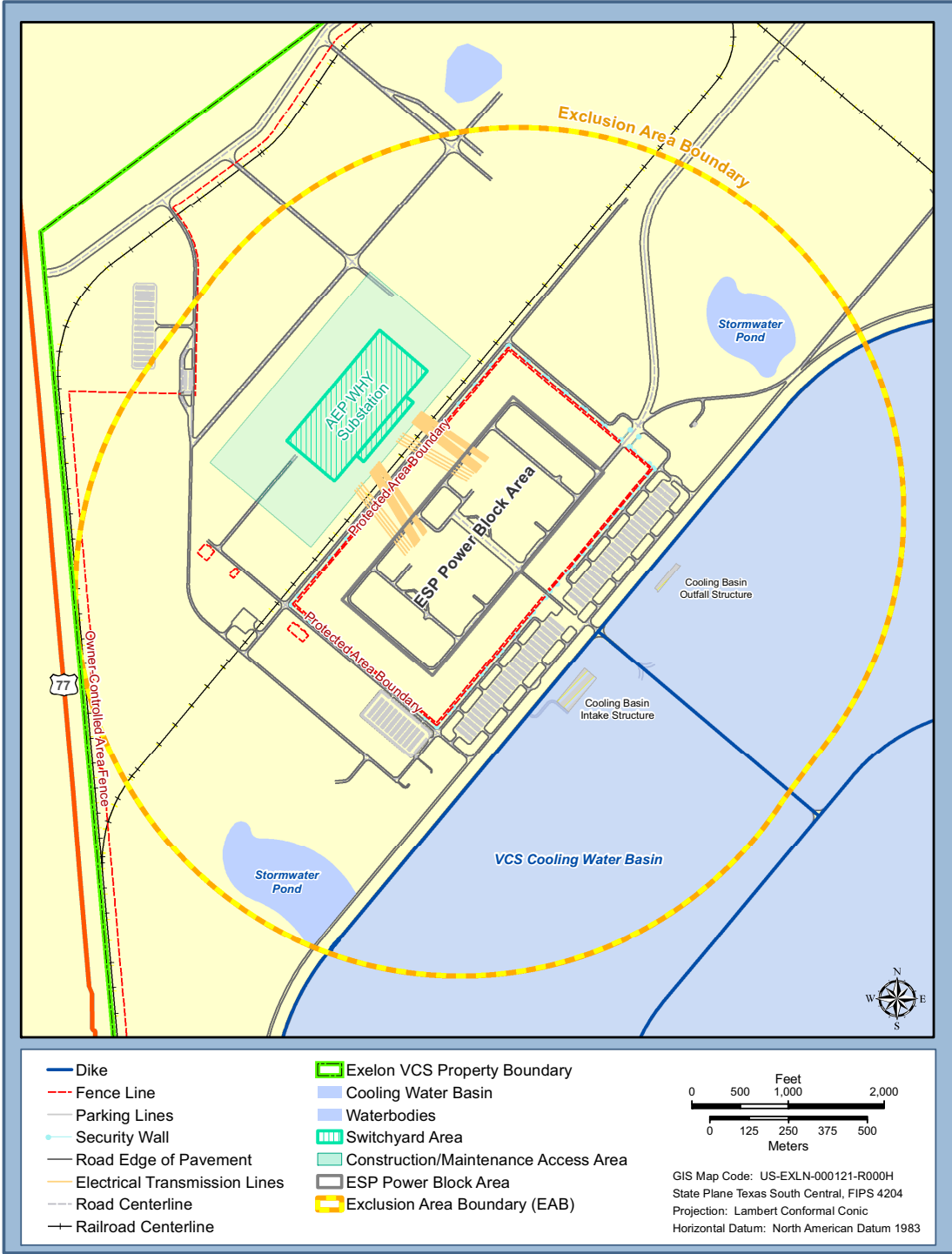


Figure 1.1-2 VCS Site Features

## 1.2 Status of Reviews, Approvals, and Consultations

Numerous federal, state, regional, and local environmental protection licenses, permits, reviews, approvals, and consultations (collectively referred to as “authorizations”) will be required to support the preconstruction, construction, and operation phases of the project. There are no Native American Tribal Agency authorizations required for this project. [Tables 1.2-1](#) and [1.2-2](#) identify, for each authorization, the following information:

- Permit/authorization
- Responsible agency
- Regulatory authority
- Principal environmental factors covered by the authorization
- Status/projected permit submission date

Some authorizations required to support preconstruction phase activities would be amended, revised, or resubmitted, as necessary, to allow follow-on activities in the construction and operation phases, at the COL stage. Exelon has initiated discussions with a number of federal and state agencies from which authorizations will be required.

A limited work authorization (LWA) is not being sought as part of this ESP application. Accordingly, construction activities, as defined under 10 CFR 50.10(a)(1), will not be initiated prior to obtaining a COL or an LWA subsequent to this application.

**Table 1.2-1 (Sheet 1 of 6)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Preconstruction/Construction Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>Federal Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Federal and State Consultations</b>					
1.1	Consultation regarding potential to adversely impact protected marine species	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA's) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (NOAA Fisheries Service)	Endangered Species Act of 1973; U.S. Code Title 16, Chapter 35; CFR Title 50 Part 17; Part 18; Part 222.	The agency consultation is needed for its concurrence with no adverse impact or proposed mitigation measures.	The NMFS has provided a letter regarding species under its purview. See Appendix A. The NRC will need formal consultation with the NMFS.
1.2	Consultation regarding potential to adversely impact protected species (non-marine species)	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Endangered Species Act of 1973; U.S. Code Title 16, Chapter 35; CFR Title 50 Part 17.	The agency consultation is needed for its concurrence with no adverse impacts or proposed mitigation measures; cannot modify habitat of endangered or threatened species without authorization from USFWS, including clearing of vegetation or earth moving activities.	The USFWS has provided a letter regarding species under its purview. See Appendix A. The NRC will need formal consultation with the USFWS.
1.3	Consultation regarding compliance with requirements of Migratory Bird Treaty Act	USFWS	Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; CFR Title 50 Part 21; U.S. Code Title 16, Chapter 7.	The agency consultation is needed for its concurrence with no adverse impact or proposed mitigation measures on protected species and/or their nests.	The USFWS has provided a letter regarding species under its purview. See Appendix A. No formal NRC consultation is required.
1.4	Consistency review	NOAA — Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, Coastal Coordination Council (CCC) of the Texas General Land Office (GLO)	Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972; U.S. Code Title 16, Chapter 33; Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) implemented through CCC; Texas Administrative Code — Title 31, Part 16, Chapter 506.	Compliance with the CMP is related to applicable projects in the designated coastal zone (portions of all coastal counties).	A letter has been sent to the Texas GLO regarding the CMP consistency review. See Appendix A.

**Table 1.2-1 (Sheet 2 of 6)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Preconstruction/Construction Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>Federal Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Federal and State Consultations (cont.)</b>					
1.5	Consultation regarding potential to adversely affect historic resources	State Historic Preservation Officer/Texas Historical Commission (THC)	CFR Title 36 Part 800; Texas Administrative Code — Title 13, Part 2.	Consultation with the THC is necessary to ensure the cultural surveys are performed adequately in affected site areas and confirm site construction or operation would not affect protected historic resources.	Ongoing
1.6	Section 401 – Water Quality Certification	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	Federal CWA — U.S. Code Title 33, Chapter 26; Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 205; Chapter 279; Chapter 307; Chapter 308; Texas Water Code — Title 2, Chapter 26.	Issuance of federal license or permit to conduct an activity that may result in discharges into “navigable waters” (includes wetlands considered “waters of the U.S.”). TCEQ would certify that any such discharge will comply with the applicable water quality standards.	The TCEQ has provided a letter regarding the CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification. See Appendix A.
1.7	Department of Army (Section 404/Section 10) Permit — Permit for Discharge of Dredge and Fill Material	USACE	Federal CWA — U.S. Code Title 33, Chapter 26, Section 404; CFR Title 33 Part 323; Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 Section 10.	This permit is required for approving discharge of dredge or fill material into jurisdictional waters, including jurisdictional wetlands. The USACE will perform a jurisdictional determination(s) to ascertain the presence and extent, if any, of wetlands or water bodies that are subject to federal regulation.	a
1.8	Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration	Federal Aviation Administration	CFR Title 14 Part 77; U.S. Code Title 49, Subtitle VII, Part A, subpart III, Chapter 447.	Notice of erection of structures (>200 feet high) potentially impacting air navigation is required for tall mechanical crane operation.	a

**Table 1.2-1 (Sheet 3 of 6)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Preconstruction/Construction Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>Federal Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Federal and State Consultations (cont.)</b>					
1.9	Oil Pollution Prevention Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan	U.S. EPA	40 CFR 112	Preparation of an SPCC Plan identifying procedures, methods, equipment, and other requirements for prevention of the discharge of oil/used oil if required.	a
<b>State Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Consultations</b>					
1.10	Federal CWA Section 316(b) Permit — Cooling Water Intake Structure	U.S. EPA and TCEQ	Federal CWA — U.S. Code Title 33 Section 316 (b)	This permit is required for the construction of a cooling water intake structure meeting certain criteria.	a
1.11	Water Well Drillers License	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations	Texas Occupations Code Chapters 1901 and 1902, Texas Administrative Code Title 16, Part 4, Chapter 76.	This permit is required for capping and plugging monitoring wells.	a
1.12	Approval of construction or modification of a public water system	TCEQ	Texas Administrative Code Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 290.	TCEQ approval of plans and specifications for constructing or modifying the treatment, storage, distribution of potable water system, including water well, storage, treatment or distribution lines.	a

**Table 1.2-1 (Sheet 4 of 6)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Preconstruction/Construction Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>State Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Consultations (cont.)</b>					
1.13	Marl, Sand, Gravel, Shell, or Mudshell Permit	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)	Texas Administrative Code — Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 69, Subchapter H.	This permit is required for the disturbance of sedimentary materials in public waters in Texas.	a
1.14	Air Quality Construction Authorization (emission sources)	TCEQ	Federal Clean Air Act — U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 85; Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 101; Chapter 111; Chapter 116.	This permit covers construction of air emission sources: (a) auxiliary boiler; (b) diesel generators; (c) diesel-driven fire pumps; (d) tank fugitive emissions; (e) Other air sources regulated by TCEQ. Permit must be obtained before excavation for or construction of foundation or footings supporting air emitting facilities.	a
1.15	Air Quality Construction Authorization (concrete batch plant)	TCEQ	Federal Clean Air Act — U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 85; Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 101; Chapter 111; Chapter 116.	This authorization covers construction of air emission sources: (a) concrete batch plant; (b) sand blast facility and surfacing/coating facility. Authorization must be obtained before excavation for or construction of foundation or footings supporting air emitting facilities.	a
1.16	Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (TPDES) (industrial wastewater)	TCEQ	Federal CWA — U.S. Code Title 33, Chapter 26; Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 205; Chapter 279; Chapter 307; Chapter 308; Texas Water Code — Title 2, Chapter 26.	This permit is required for discharge of industrial wastewater to surface waters.	a

**Table 1.2-1 (Sheet 5 of 6)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Preconstruction/Construction Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>State Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Consultations (cont.)</b>					
1.17	TPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated With Construction Activity	TCEQ	Federal CWA — U.S. Code Title 33, Chapter 26; Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 205; Texas Water Code — Title 2, Chapter 26.	This permit is required for discharge of stormwater from site during construction, including discharge of stormwaters, vehicle wash water, uncontaminated groundwater, construction dewatering effluent, or concrete batch plant runoff that impacts 5 acres or more. Authorization must be obtained before exposure of soils from activities such as clearing, grading, and excavating.	a
1.18	Water Rights Permit	TCEQ	Texas Water Code, Chapter 11; Texas Administrative Code Chapters 295 and 297.	New water right or amendment of existing water right to authorize storage of state water in an onsite cooling impoundment.	a
1.19	Notice of Registration (onsite disposal)	TCEQ	Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 335; U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 82, Subchapter III.	Onsite disposal of Class 2 or 3 industrial solid wastes consisting of earth and earth-like products, concrete, cured asphalt, rock, bricks, and land clearing debris.	a
1.20	Notice of Registration (offsite disposal)	TCEQ	Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 335; U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 82, Subchapter III.	Offsite disposal of industrial solid wastes consisting of earth and earth-like products, concrete, cured asphalt, rock, bricks, and land clearing debris.	a

**Table 1.2-1 (Sheet 6 of 6)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Preconstruction/Construction Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>State Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Consultations (cont.)</b>					
1.21	Notification of hazardous waste activity and Identification number	TCEQ	Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 335; CFR, Title 40, Chapter I, Subchapter I, Parts 260-270.	This notification is required for any industrial and hazardous waste (including Class 1 waste) generation, processing, storage, and disposal activities. It is also required to obtain identification number from TCEQ for these activities.	a
1.22	Waste Minimization and Recycling	TCEQ	Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 328.	This TCEQ rule requires the establishment of a waste reduction program.	a
1.23	Authorization for Dam Construction	TCEQ	U.S. Code Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter VII; Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 299; Texas Water Code — Title 2, Chapter 12.	This authorization is required for the construction of a dam. Construction plans and specifications are to be submitted for TCEQ review and approval.	a
1.24	Consultation regarding potential to adversely impact state listed protected species	TPWD	Texas Administrative Code — Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 65; Texas Administrative Code — Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 69.	Consultation with TPWD is in necessary to ensure the ecological surveys are performed adequately to cover all concerned protected species in the affected site areas and confirm no adverse impacts on state listed protected species and/or their habitat.	The TPWD has provided a letter. See Appendix A.  No formal NRC consultation is required.
1.25	Groundwater Well Permit (new installation)	Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District (VCGCD)	Texas Water Code — Title 2, Chapter 28.	Permits are required for new groundwater well installation and operation.	a

a. This information does not currently exist. Licenses and permits would be applied for and received at the appropriate time, which may not be until the COL phase



**Table 1.2-2 (Sheet 1 of 2)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Operation Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>Federal Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Federal and State Consultations</b>					
2.1	Hazardous Waste Inventory and Contingency Plan	U.S. EPA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act — U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 116; CFR Title 40 Part 355.	Preparation of an inventory of hazardous wastes on site and contingency plan are required.	a
2.2	Toxic Chemical Inventory and Community Right-to-Know Plan	U.S. EPA	Toxic Release Inventory Program: CFR Title 40 Part 372; Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 – U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 133.	Preparation of an inventory of toxic chemicals on site that exceed threshold limits is required.	a
2.3	Hazardous Chemical Inventory and Community Right-to-Know Plan	U.S. EPA	CFR Title 40 Part 370.	Preparation of an inventory of hazardous chemicals on site is required.	a
2.4	Oil Pollution Prevention — Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan	U.S. EPA	CFR Title 40 Part 112.	Preparation of an SPCC Plan identifying procedures, methods, equipment, and other requirements for the prevention of the discharge of oil/used oil is required.	a
2.5	Certificate of Registration	U.S. Department of Transportation	CFR Title 49 Part 107, Subpart G.	Registration for transportation of hazardous materials (every two years) is required.	a
2.6	Spent Fuel Contract	U.S. DOE	Nuclear Waste Policy Act — U.S. Code Title 42, Chapter 108; CFR Title 10 Part 961.	A DOE Standard Contract for disposal of spent nuclear fuel contained in CFR Title 10 Part 961 is required for the operation of nuclear power facility.	Initiated preliminary contract discussions with the DOE. Discussions will resume at the COL phase.
2.7	Byproduct license	U.S. NRC	CFR Title 10 Part 30.	A license for the possession of special nuclear material on site is necessary for the operation of a nuclear power facility.	a
2.8	Special Nuclear Materials License	U.S. NRC	CFR Title 10 Part 70 — “Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material.”	A license for the possession of nuclear fuel on site is necessary for the operation of a nuclear power facility.	a

**Table 1.2-2 (Sheet 2 of 2)**  
**Permits/Authorizations/Consultations Required for Operation Activities**

Item	Permit/Authorization	Responsible Agency	Regulatory Authority	Principal Environmental Factors Covered	Status/ Projected Permit Submission Date
<b>State Permits, Licenses, and Registrations and Associated Consultations</b>					
2.9	Certificate of Annual Tank Registration	TCEQ	Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 334.	This registration is required for all aboveground storage tanks that are capable of being used for petroleum products and certain chemicals.	a
2.10	Notice of Intent for coverage under multi-sector stormwater permit (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan)	TCEQ	Federal CWA — U.S. Code Title 33, Chapter 26; Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 205; Texas Water Code — Title 2, Chapter 26.	This permit authorizes stormwater discharges to surface water from certain industrial facilities including steam electric generating facilities.	a
2.11	Tennessee Radioactive Waste License-for-Delivery	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation — Division of Radiological Health	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Radiological Health — Rule 1200-2-10.32.	An approval for transportation of radioactive waste into the state of Tennessee is required.	a
2.12	Utah Generator Site Access Permit	Utah Department of Environmental Quality — Division of Radiation Control	Utah Division of Radiation Control — Rule R313-26.	This permit is required for transportation of radioactive material into the state of Utah.	a
2.13	Registration for Exempt Wholesale Generator (EWG)	Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT)	Texas Administrative Code — Title 16, Part 2, Chapter 25; PUCT.	An EWG must register with the PUCT as an EWG before beginning operation.	a
2.14	Title V Federal Operating Permit	TCEQ	Texas Administrative Code — Title 30, Part 1, Chapter 122.	This permit defines emission limits and pollution control requirements for operating air emissions sources meeting certain criteria.	a

a. This information does not currently exist. Licenses and permits would be applied for and received at the appropriate time, which may not be until the COL phase.