



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

December 18, 2012

Mr. Reid Nelson, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is conducting an environmental review of the effects of renewing the operating license for South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 (STP). STP is located in Matagorda County, Texas, and is operated by STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC). As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC has prepared a draft site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," NUREG-1437. The draft SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archeological, and cultural properties from continued operation and refurbishment activities associated with license renewal.

As stated in our January 27, 2011, letter, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The NRC views the APE for the STP license renewal review as including the STP site and the immediate environs.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the draft SEIS was prepared, the NRC preliminary determination is that the impact of license renewal on historical and archaeological resources is small and additional mitigation is not warranted. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed action.

In support of this conclusion, the NRC staff has conducted an environmental audit at the site and performed an independent analysis and review of historic and archaeological records. The NRC also contacted 10 Native American Tribes identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. Four tribes-the Apalachicola Band of Creek Indians, the Kickapoo Traditional Council of Texas, the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Tap Pilam-Coahuiltecan Nation-responded to the NRC with scoping comments. These comments included concerns with potential accidents, requests to re-survey the STP site, requests for notification if historic and cultural resources of cultural significance were discovered on the STP site, and statements

R. Nelson

- 2 -

of no concern with the undertaking. The NRC responded to the tribes in October 2011 and has taken the comments into consideration while preparing the draft SEIS. Appendix D of this draft SEIS contains copies of these letters.

A copy of the draft supplement with the conclusion of no affect to historic properties is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft SEIS and on our preliminary conclusions regarding historic properties. Please note that the period for public comment expires on February 22, 2013.

If your office requires additional time, or if there are any questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact Emily Larson, Social Scientist, by phone at 301-415-1151 or by e-mail at Emily.Larson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Melanie C. Wong, Chief
Environmental Review and
Guidance Update Branch
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosures:

1. *Federal Register* Notice
2. NUREG-1437, Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 48

cc w/encls: Listserv

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

STP Nuclear Operating Company

South Texas Project

[Docket Nos.: 50-498 and 50-499; NRC-2010-0375]

**Notice of Availability of Draft Supplement 48 to the Generic
Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants and
Public Meetings for the License Renewal of South Texas Project**

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a draft plant-specific supplement 48 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants (GEIS), NUREG-1437, regarding the renewal of operating licenses NPF-76 and NPF-80 for an additional 20 years of operation for South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2. STP is located in Bay City, Texas. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources.

Any interested party may submit comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS for consideration by the NRC staff. To be considered, comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS and the proposed action must be received by February 22, 2013. The NRC staff is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may access information and comment submissions related to this document, which the NRC possesses and are publically available, by searching on <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID NRC-2010-0375. You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

location. No comments on the draft supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meeting or in writing. Persons may pre-register to attend or present oral comments at the meeting by contacting Mr. Tam Tran, the NRC Environmental Project Manager, at 1-800-368-5642, extension 3617, or by e-mail at tam.tran@nrc.gov no later than Friday, January 4, 2013. Members of the public may also register to provide oral comments within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. If special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, the need should be brought to Mr. Tran's attention no later than Friday, January 4, 2013, to provide the NRC staff adequate notice to determine whether the request can be accommodated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Tam Tran, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-3617; or e-mail to tam.tran@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Accessing Information and Submitting Comments

A. Accessing Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2010-0375 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may access information related to this document by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web site:** Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2010-0375.

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):**

You may access publicly-available documents online in the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select "ADAMS Public Documents" and then select "Begin Web-based ADAMS Search." For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The ADAMS accession number for each document referenced in this notice (if that document is available in ADAMS) is provided the first time that a document is referenced.

- **NRC's PDR:** You may examine and purchase copies of public documents at the NRC's PDR, Room O1-F21, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

In addition, a copy of the draft supplement to the GEIS is available to local residents near the site at the 1100 7th Street, Bay City, TX 77414.

B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID NRC-2010-0375 in the subject line of your comment submission, in order to ensure that the NRC is able to make your comment submission available to the public in this docket.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at <http://www.regulations.gov> as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that

they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment submissions into ADAMS.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of December 2012.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

of no concern with the undertaking. The NRC responded to the tribes in October 2011 and has taken the comments into consideration while preparing the draft SEIS. Appendix D of this draft SEIS lists contains copies of these letters.

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Melanie C. Wong, Chief
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Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

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cc w/encls: Listserv

DISTRIBUTION:

See next page

ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML12347A241(PKG), ML12321A311(LTR), ML12324A049(GEIS)
ML12339A265(FRN) *concurring via email

OFFICE	LA:DLR	BC:DLR:RPB2	RERB Technical Staff Member	BC:RERB:DLR
NAME	YEdmonds	TTran	ELarson	MWong
DATE	12/4/12	12/11/12	12/4/12	12/18/12

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Letter to R. Nelson from M. Wong dated December 18, 2012

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION REVIEW

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