

No: 13-084

October 8, 2013

CONTACT: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

## **Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Postpones Hearing on Proposed New South Texas Project Reactors**

Due to the ongoing government shutdown, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has postponed the hearing scheduled to begin Wednesday, Oct. 16, in Houston. The hearing will be rescheduled once the NRC resumes full operations.

This hearing involves Nuclear Innovation North America's application to build two Advanced Boiling-Water Reactors at the South Texas Project site. The hearing will examine whether the applicant's planned corporate governing structure and financing comply with the NRC's rules prohibiting foreign ownership, control and domination.

The federal shutdown began Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year, due to a lapse of appropriations from Congress. The NRC has continued to operate on unexpended funds from previous appropriations, but the agency expects its funds to run out by the middle of this week. Should it be necessary at that time, the agency will begin scaled-down operations focusing on immediate public safety and security issues. For more information about the effect of the partial government shutdown on NRC operations, [see the agency blog](#).

The board continues to accept written comments from interested members of the public, known as limited appearance statements. These statements are not testimony or evidence, but they may aid the board and/or the parties in considering the issues in the hearing. Statements may be submitted until 5 p.m. EDT on October 9, via mail to: Office of the Secretary Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; via fax to (301) 415-1101 or via e-mail to [hearingdocket@nrc.gov](mailto:hearingdocket@nrc.gov). Copies of the statements should also be submitted to: Administrative Judge Michael M. Gibson, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; via fax to (301) 415-5599, or via email to [carter.thurman@nrc.gov](mailto:carter.thurman@nrc.gov) and [michael.gibson@nrc.gov](mailto:michael.gibson@nrc.gov).

Documents related to the [South Texas Project application](#) are available on the NRC website. Documents regarding this board's proceeding are available on the NRC's [Electronic Hearing Docket](#) by clicking on the folder entitled "South\_Texas\_52-012&013-COL" on the left side of the page. More information about [the role of the ASLB](#) in the licensing process is available on the NRC website.