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NRC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement for South Texas Project Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued its final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the proposed renewal of the operating licenses for the South Texas Project nuclear power plant, Units 1 and 2. The report concludes there are no environmental impacts that would preclude renewing the plant's licenses.

The South Texas Project is two pressurized water reactors located in Bay City, about 90 miles southwest of Houston. The current licenses expire on Aug. 20, 2027, for Unit 1 and Dec. 15, 2028, for Unit 2.

The licensee, STP Nuclear Operating Co., filed its renewal application on Oct. 25, 2010, seeking to extend the operating licenses for an additional 20 years, to 2047 for Unit 1 and 2048 for Unit 2.

The license renewal review process proceeds along two tracks – one for review of safety issues and another for environmental issues. As part of its environmental review of the application, the NRC held public meetings near the plant to discuss the review process and the draft version of the environmental impact statement. Comments were received and considered from members of the public, local officials, and representatives of state and federal agencies.

The NRC published a safety evaluation report with open items in February. However, the safety review has been paused until 2014 at the applicant's request.

The final supplemental environmental impact statement for the South Texas Project license renewal ([NUREG-1437, Supplement 48](#)), as well as the [license renewal application](#) and other information on the review, can be found on the NRC website.