

NRC Phone Call Record

PROJECT: New and Significant Review for Combined Licenses for South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Units 3 and 4

DATE: February 4, 2015

TIME: 12:05 p.m. EST

PARTICIPANTS:

Name	Title	Agency/Organization
Nancy Kuntzleman	Aquatic Biologist	NRC 301-415-2313 nancy.kuntzleman@nrc.gov
Bill Baker	Wildlife Biologist	NRG 281-380-9579 william.bakerjr@nrg.com

SUBJECT: Presence of red knot (*Calidris canutus*), a migratory shorebird that breeds in the Canadian arctic, relative to the STP site.

CALL NOTES: Nancy explained that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Combined Licenses (COLs) for South Texas Project (STP) Electric Generating Stations Units 3 and 4 (NUREG-1937) was published February 2011. Various issues have precluded the start of the mandatory hearing process for issuance of the COLs until recently. It is anticipated that the mandatory hearings for STP Units 3 and 4 may occur within the next year. As a result, the staff is now proceeding with reviewing new info that became available after issuance of the FEIS. With regard to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made a determination of threatened species status for the rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). The final rule became effective on January 12, 2015.

Nancy had reviewed several years (2000-2015) of Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) data for the Matagorda County-Mad Island Marsh (TXMM) circle which includes the STP site. CBC data for the TXMM circle indicate the red knot (*Calidris canutus*) does occur within that circle. Nancy inquired about the presence of the red knot relative to the STP site. Bill replied that as manager of ecological programs for NRG, he has been conducting bird surveys at the STP site since 1983 and has never observed the red knot at the STP site. The STP site does not provide suitable habitat. The preferred habitat of the red knot, beachfront and shores, occurs from 15 to 17 miles south of the STP site.

CONCLUSION: Bill summarized that the red knot would not be affected by the proposal to build and operate two new reactors at the STP site.