



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

October 5, 2015

SECRETARY

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott:

I am writing to notify you that the Commission is convening an evidentiary hearing on November 19, 2015, associated with the application for combined licenses to authorize construction and operation of two additional units (Units 3 and 4) at the South Texas Project (STP) Electric Generating Station site in Matagorda County near Bay City, Texas. Enclosed is a Notice of Hearing regarding the mandatory hearing that has been sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

The Commission's procedures allow any interested State, local government body, or federally-recognized Indian tribe to file with the Commission a statement of any issues or questions that the State, local government body, or Indian tribe wishes the Commission to consider as part of the mandatory hearing. Written statements from interested governmental or Tribal participants are due by October 14, 2015.

As provided in the enclosed Notice of Hearing, written statements and supporting documentation (if any) should be submitted to the Commission using the agency's E-filing system. If practicable, we request that written statements be filed by use of the Electronic Information Exchange (EIE). If your staff does not already have a digital certificate for EIE, they will need to visit the NRC website and use the following hyperlink <https://pki.nrc.gov/ecs/apps/eie/dcc-eie-adj.html>, titled "External Credential Service for the Electronic Submittals – Adjudicatory." If your staff requires assistance in navigating the agency's E-filing system, they should contact the NRC's Electronic Submittals Help Desk by email at Meta_System_Help_Desk.Resource@nrc.gov or by telephone toll free at (866) 672-7640 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, with the exception of government holidays. Participants who are unable to use the EIE, or who will have difficulty complying with the EIE requirements in the time frame provided, may submit their statements by electronic mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov.

In addition, the staff has recently provided the Commission a paper regarding this matter entitled "SECY-15-0123, The Staff Statement in Support of the Uncontested Hearing for Issuance of Combined Licenses for the South Texas Project, Units 3 and 4," dated September 30, 2015. The paper may be found on the NRC public website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secy/2015/>.

Sincerely,



Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Enclosure:
Notice of Hearing *Federal Register* Notice

cc: Attorney General Ken Paxton
Ms. DeAnn Walker, Director
Office of Budget and Policy
Office of the Governor
Mr. W. Nim Kidd, Assistant Director
Texas Department of Public Safety

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 52-012 and 52-013; NRC-2008-0091]

In the Matter of Nuclear Innovation North America LLC,
Combined Licenses for South Texas Project, Units 3 and 4

Notice of Hearing

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of hearing.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) will convene an evidentiary session to receive testimony and exhibits in the uncontested portion of this proceeding regarding the application of Nuclear Innovation North America LLC (NINA) for combined licenses (COLs) to construct and operate two additional units (Units 3 and 4) at the South Texas Project (STP) Electric Generating Station site in Matagorda County near Bay City, Texas. This mandatory hearing will concern safety and environmental matters relating to the requested COLs.

DATES: The hearing will be held on November 19, 2015, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time. For the schedule for submitting pre-filed documents and deadlines affecting Interested Government Participants, see Section VI of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket IDs 52-012 and 52-013 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **NRC's Electronic Hearing Docket:** You may obtain publicly available documents related to this hearing online at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory.html>

- **NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection 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 (if it 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Glenn Ellmers, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone: 301-415-0442; e-mail: Glenn.Ellmers@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. BACKGROUND.

The Commission hereby gives notice that, pursuant to Section 189a of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), it will convene an evidentiary session to receive testimony and exhibits in the uncontested portion of this proceeding regarding NINA's September 20, 2007, application for COLs under Part 52 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), to construct and operate two additional units (Units 3 and 4) at the STP Electric Generating Station site in Matagorda County near Bay City, Texas (ADAMS Accession No. ML15120A324). This mandatory hearing will concern safety and environmental matters relating to the requested COLs, as more fully described below. Participants in the hearing are not to address any contested issues in their written filings or oral presentations.

II. EVIDENTIARY UNCONTESTED HEARING.

The Commission will conduct this hearing beginning at 8:30 a.m., Eastern Time on November 19, 2015, at the Commission's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. The hearing on these issues will continue on subsequent days, if necessary.

III. PRESIDING OFFICER.

The Commission is the presiding officer for this proceeding.

IV. MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED.

The matter at issue in this proceeding is whether the review of the application by the Commission's staff has been adequate to support the findings found in 10 CFR 52.97 and 10 CFR 51.107. Those findings that must be made for each COL are as follows:

Issues Pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended

The Commission will determine whether (1) the applicable standards and requirements of the Act and the Commission's regulations have been met; (2) any required notifications to other agencies or bodies have been duly made; (3) there is reasonable assurance that the facility will be constructed and will operate in conformity with the license, the provisions of the Act, and the Commission's regulations; (4) the applicant is technically and financially qualified to engage in the activities authorized; and (5) issuance of the license will not be inimical to the common defense and security or the health and safety of the public.

Issues Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as Amended

The Commission will (1) determine whether the requirements of Sections 102(2) (A), (C), and (E) of NEPA and the applicable regulations in 10 CFR Part 51 have been met; (2) independently consider the final balance among conflicting factors contained in the record of the proceeding with a view to determining the appropriate action to be taken; (3) determine, after weighing the environmental, economic, technical, and other benefits against environmental and other costs, and considering reasonable alternatives, whether the combined licenses should be issued, denied, or appropriately conditioned to protect environmental values; and (4) determine whether the NEPA review conducted by the NRC staff has been adequate.

V. SCHEDULE FOR SUBMITTAL OF PRE-FILED DOCUMENTS.

No later than October 29, 2015, unless the Commission directs otherwise, the staff and the applicant shall submit a list of its anticipated witnesses for the hearing.

No later than October 29, 2015, unless the Commission directs otherwise, the applicant shall submit its pre-filed written testimony. The staff previously submitted its testimony on September 30, 2015.

The Commission may issue written questions to the applicant or the staff before the hearing. If such questions are issued, an order containing such questions will be issued no later than October 16, 2015. Responses to such questions are due October 29, 2015, unless the Commission directs otherwise.

VI. INTERESTED GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANTS

No later than October 14, 2015, any interested State, local government body, or affected, Federally-recognized Indian tribe may file with the Commission a statement of any issues or questions to which the State, local government body, or Indian tribe wishes the Commission to give particular attention as part of the uncontested hearing process. Such statement may be accompanied by any supporting documentation that the State, local government body, or Indian tribe sees fit to provide. Any statements and supporting documentation (if any) received by the Commission using the agency's E-filing system¹ by the deadline indicated above will be made part of the record of the proceeding. The Commission will use such statements and documents as appropriate to inform its pre-hearing questions to the Staff and applicant, its inquiries at the oral hearing and its decision following the hearing.

¹ The process for accessing and using the agency's E-filing system is described in the February 20, 2009, notice of hearing that was issued by the Commission for this proceeding. See South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company Application for the South Texas Project Units 3 and 4; Notice of Order, Hearing, and Opportunity To Petition for Leave To Intervene 74 FR 7934. Participants who are unable to use the electronic information exchange (EIE), or who will have difficulty complying with EIE requirements in the time frame provided for submission of written statements, may provide their statements by electronic mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov.

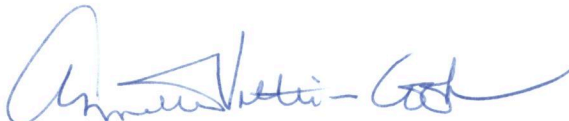
The Commission may also request, prior to November 5, 2015, that one or more particular States, local government bodies, or Indian tribes send one representative each to the evidentiary hearing to answer Commission questions and/or make a statement for the purpose of assisting the Commission's exploration of one or more of the issues raised by the State, local government body, or Indian tribe in the pre-hearing filings described above. The decision of whether to request the presence of a representative of a State, local government body, or Indian tribe at the evidentiary hearing to make a statement and/or answer Commission questions is solely at the Commission's discretion. The Commission's request will specify the issue or issues that the representative should be prepared to address.

States, local governments, or Indian Tribes should be aware that this evidentiary hearing is separate and distinct from the NRC's contested hearing process. Issues within the scope of contentions that have been admitted or contested issues pending before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board or the Commission in a contested proceeding for a COL application are outside the scope of the uncontested proceeding for that COL application. In addition, although States, local governments, or Indian tribes participating as described above may take any position they wish, or no position at all, with respect to issues regarding the COL application or the NRC staff's associated environmental review that do fall within the scope of the uncontested proceeding (i.e., issues that are not within the scope of admitted contentions or pending contested issues), they should be aware that many of the procedures and rights applicable to the NRC's contested hearing process due to the inherently adversarial nature of such proceedings are not available with respect to this uncontested hearing. Participation in the NRC's contested hearing process is governed by 10 CFR 2.309 (for persons or entities, including States, local governments, or Indian tribes, seeking to file contentions of their own) and 10 CFR 2.315(c) (for interested States, local governments, and Indian tribes seeking to

participate with respect to contentions filed by others). Participation in this uncontested hearing does not affect the right of a State, local government, or Indian tribe to participate in the separate contested hearing process.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 5th day of October, 2015.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



Annette L. Vietti-Cook,
Secretary of the Commission.