

From: Galvin, Dennis
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 12:37 PM
To: Wendy Brost (webrost@stpegs.com)
Cc: AJ Albaaj (ajalbaaj@stpegs.com); Dixon-Herrity, Jennifer
Subject: South Texas Project – Acceptance of Requested Licensing Action – Alternative Disposal Request (EPID: L 2021-LLL-0022)

Ms. Brost,

By letter dated November 4, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21089A301), as supplemented by letter dated December 3, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21337A126), STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC, the licensee) submitted an alternative disposal request. The December 3, 2021, submittal replaced the November 4, 2021, submittal in its entirety. The request was submitted in response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) notification of the end of enforcement discretion related to alternate disposal procedures for very low-level radioactive material dated August 10, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21180A195).

The purpose of this email is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this alternative disposal request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether any submittal has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The request was made in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 20.2002, "Method for obtaining approval of proposed disposal procedures."

The NRC staff has reviewed your submittal and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the alternative disposal request in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review, as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this licensing request will take approximately 410 hours each to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review by December 9, 2022. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the applications and they could change, due to several factors including requests for additional information, and unanticipated addition of scope to the review. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

Please contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Dennis Galvin
Project Manager
U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Licensing Project Branch 4
301-415-6256

Docket No. 50-498 and 50-499

Hearing Identifier: NRR_DRMA
Email Number: 1449

Mail Envelope Properties (SA1PR09MB81117DE2D36FE816AB4AEA53FB709)

Subject: South Texas Project – Acceptance of Requested Licensing Action – Alternative Disposal Request (EPID: L 2021-LLL-0022)
Sent Date: 12/9/2021 12:37:28 PM
Received Date: 12/9/2021 12:37:00 PM
From: Galvin, Dennis

Created By: Dennis.Galvin@nrc.gov

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Tracking Status: None

Post Office: SA1PR09MB8111.namprd09.prod.outlook.com

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	3441	12/9/2021 12:37:00 PM

Options

Priority: Normal

Return Notification: No

Reply Requested: No

Sensitivity: Normal

Expiration Date: