

August 22, 2006

APPLICANT: NRG ENERGY, INC.

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JULY 27, 2006, CATEGORY 1 MEETING WITH NRG ENERGY, INC. REGARDING AN INTENDED FUTURE APPLICATION FOR A COMBINED LICENSE FOR TWO UNITS AT THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT SITE

On July 27, 2006, the staff met with representatives of NRG Energy, Inc. (NRG) and the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) to discuss NRG and STPNOC (the applicants) plans to apply for a combined license (COL) for the construction and operation of two Advanced Boiling Water Reactors (ABWRs) at the South Texas Project site southwest of Houston, Texas. The applicant referred to these future units as STP Units 3 & 4. A list of those in attendance is provided as Enclosure 1. A copy of the applicants' presentation is included as Enclosure 2.

The applicants described their new reactor licensing organization and outlined their objectives. They stated that they had chosen ABWR as it is proven technology and the first-of-a-kind engineering (FOAKE) is complete. They stated that they anticipated ordering the nuclear steam supply system and major components by summer 2007 and also stated that they anticipated submitting a COL application in late 2007 in order to support their goal of having generation on line in 2014-2015.

The applicants stated that they intend to facilitate the licensing process by minimizing departures from the ABWR design as certified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). They also stated they did not intend to use optional licensing approaches such as 10 CFR 50.69, "Risk-informed Categorization and Treatment of Structures, Systems and Components for Nuclear Power Plants," NFPA-805, "Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants," or risk-informed 10 CFR 50.46. The NRC staff pointed out to them that employing such optional approaches was not necessarily inconsistent with standardization if these options were pursued through a design-centered working group.

The applicants outlined their reasons for choosing the South Texas Project site. They cited the low population density and the availability of both a functional barge slip and a heavy haul road. They also stated that the South Texas Project site was originally intended to support four nuclear units.

The applicants stressed the importance of early submittals as a means of meeting their schedule. They stated that they were considering resolving generic issues such as applicable portions of the design acceptance criteria (DAC) through General Electric topical reports. The NRC staff informed them that the DAC would be addressed as part of the COL review and that any rulemaking activity to address DAC generically would be in the future and probably would be on a longer review schedule than that required to support licensing of STP Units 3 and 4.

The applicants briefly discussed potential areas of departure from the certified design. These areas of departure included changes to the electrical distribution system, the removal of hydrogen recombiners, and the use of the latest GE fuel design.

The applicants stated their commitment to submitting a high quality application to minimize the number of staff requests for additional information (RAIs). They also stated their commitment to addressing staff RAIs promptly. The applicant stated that they anticipated meeting with the staff regularly (about every six to eight weeks) from this point forward.

/RA/

George F. Wunder, Project Manager
ABWR/ESBWR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 749

Enclosures: 1. Attendance List
2. NRG/STPNOC Slides (ML062300119)

cc w/encls: See next page

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ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML062300030-Package

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DATE	08/21/2006	08/22/2006

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MEETING WITH NRG ENERGY, INC.
REGARDING INTENDED FUTURE APPLICATION
FOR A COL FOR TWO UNITS AT THE STP SITE

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