

August 5, 2011 (8:30 a.m.)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
RULEMAKINGS AND  
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Judge Michael M. Gibson  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel  
Mail Stop T-3 F23  
US. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Judge Gibson,

The Bay City Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture supports the expansion of the South Texas Project's proposed Units 3 & 4. For over 25 years, STP has been a key player in Matagorda County and our local community. The company's employees are active and engaged in our community, serving on our school boards, my Chamber board and civic and service organizations.

For over 25 years STP's existing units have provided safe, clean, reliable energy to two million Texas homes and businesses. The facility is a recognized industry leader in production, reliability and safety. We believe nuclear energy must play a larger role in our Nation's and State's long term energy future. There is a growing recognition of nuclear energy's environmental benefits and its role in providing much needed generating capacity in Texas for decades.

The expansion of the South Texas Project will create hundreds of well paid permanent positions, and thousands of contractor jobs during plant construction, and will add several billion dollars to the local and State economies. STP is already Matagorda County's largest employer with more the 1,200 employees. The company will need an additional 800 well trained and highly skilled technicians, engineers, operators, and other personnel to staff its planned new units.

STP is committed to attracting and training that workforce locally. The company and Wharton Junior College, Bay City Branch has teamed up to offer two year degree and certification programs to train the next generation of nuclear workers. STP is investing in our kids and our grandkids.

STP has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to our community, and the facility's expansion is essential to the continued progress of our County.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mitch Thames".

Mitch Thames

President and CEO  
Bay City Chamber of Commerce  
and Agriculture