

# Preliminary Site-Specific Results of the Environmental Review For South Texas Project License Renewal

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January 15, 2013

# Purpose of Today's Meeting

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- Present the results of the review
- Accept any comments you may have today

# Overview

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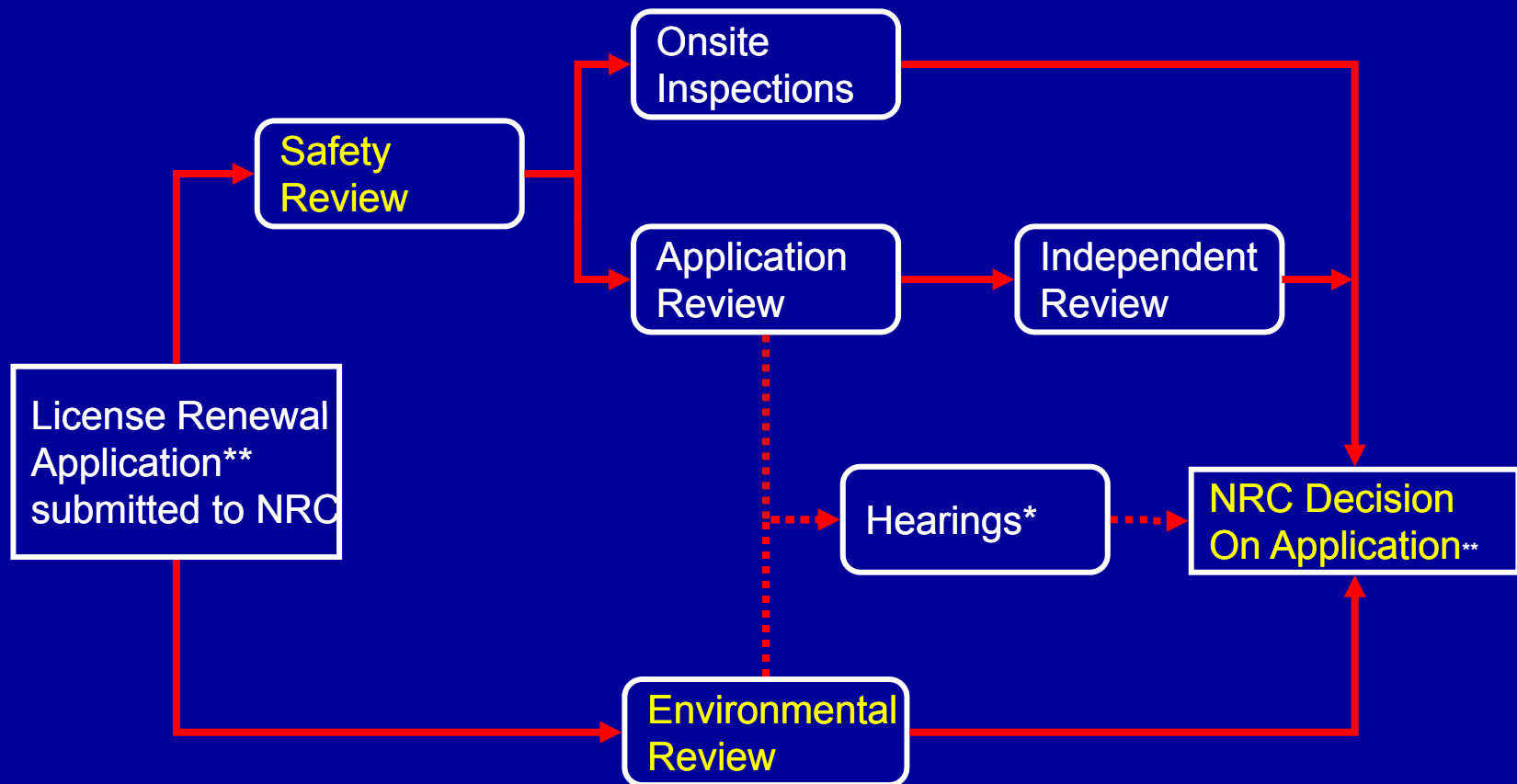
- NRC presentation
  - NRC's regulatory role
  - Summary of environmental review
  - Upcoming milestones and how to submit comments outside this meeting
- Your comments

# NRC's Regulatory Oversight

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- NRC regulates commercial use of nuclear materials including nuclear power plants
- NRC's mission:
  - Protect public health and safety
  - Promote common defense and security
  - Protect the environment

# License Renewal Process



\* If a Request for Hearing is Granted

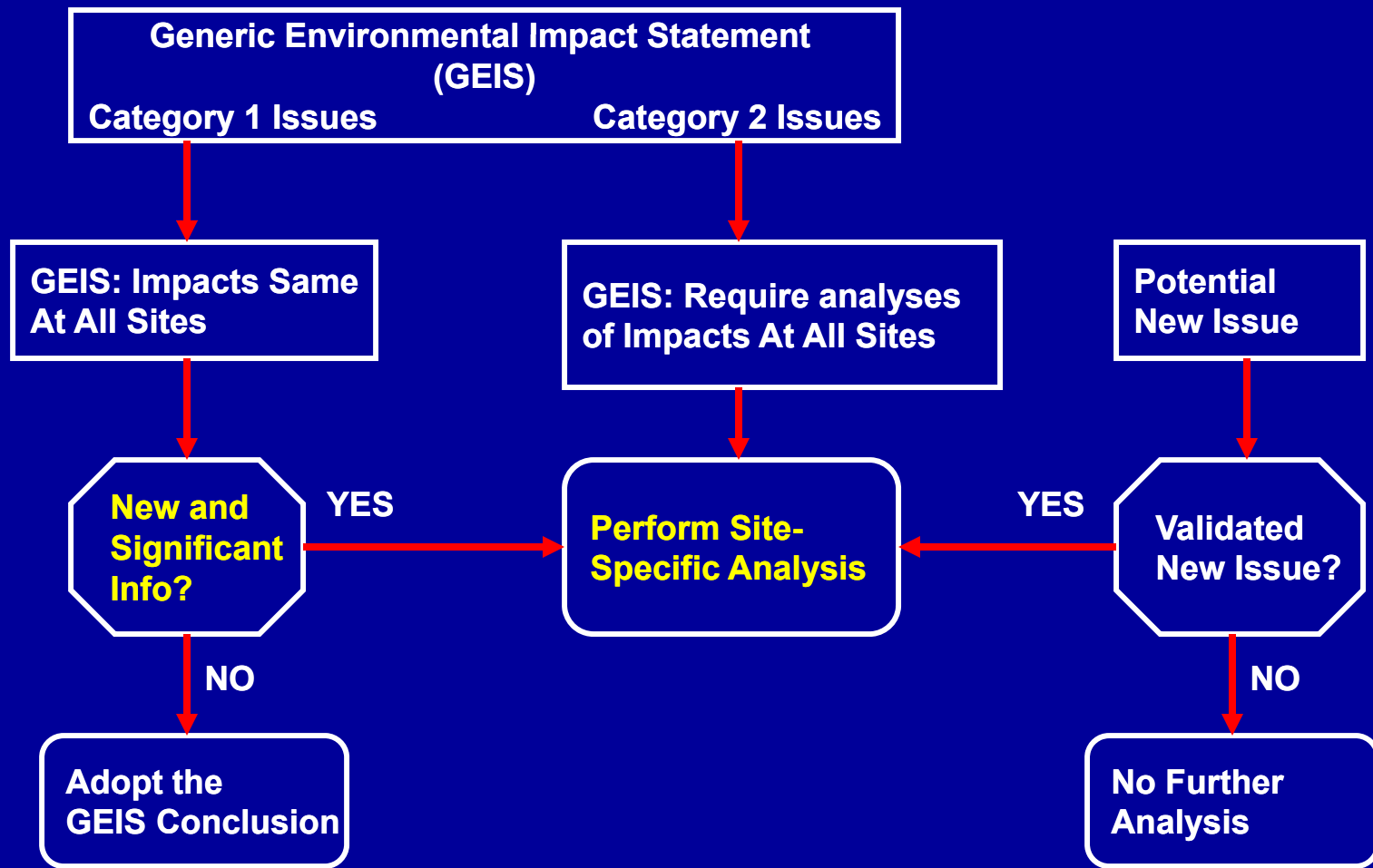
\*\* Available at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)

# Environmental Review

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- Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) addresses issues common to all plants
- Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) addresses site-specific issues for South Texas Project (STP) license renewal
- Review proposed action (license renewal) and alternatives

# Analysis Approach



# Environmental Review Milestones

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Application Received	October 26, 2010
Notice of Intent	January 31, 2011
Scoping Public Meeting	March 2, 2011
Scoping Period Ended	April 1, 2011
Scoping Summary Report	November 15, 2012
Draft SEIS	December 5, 2012
Draft SEIS Public Meeting	January 15, 2013
Draft SEIS Comments Due	February 22, 2013
Final SEIS	July 2013

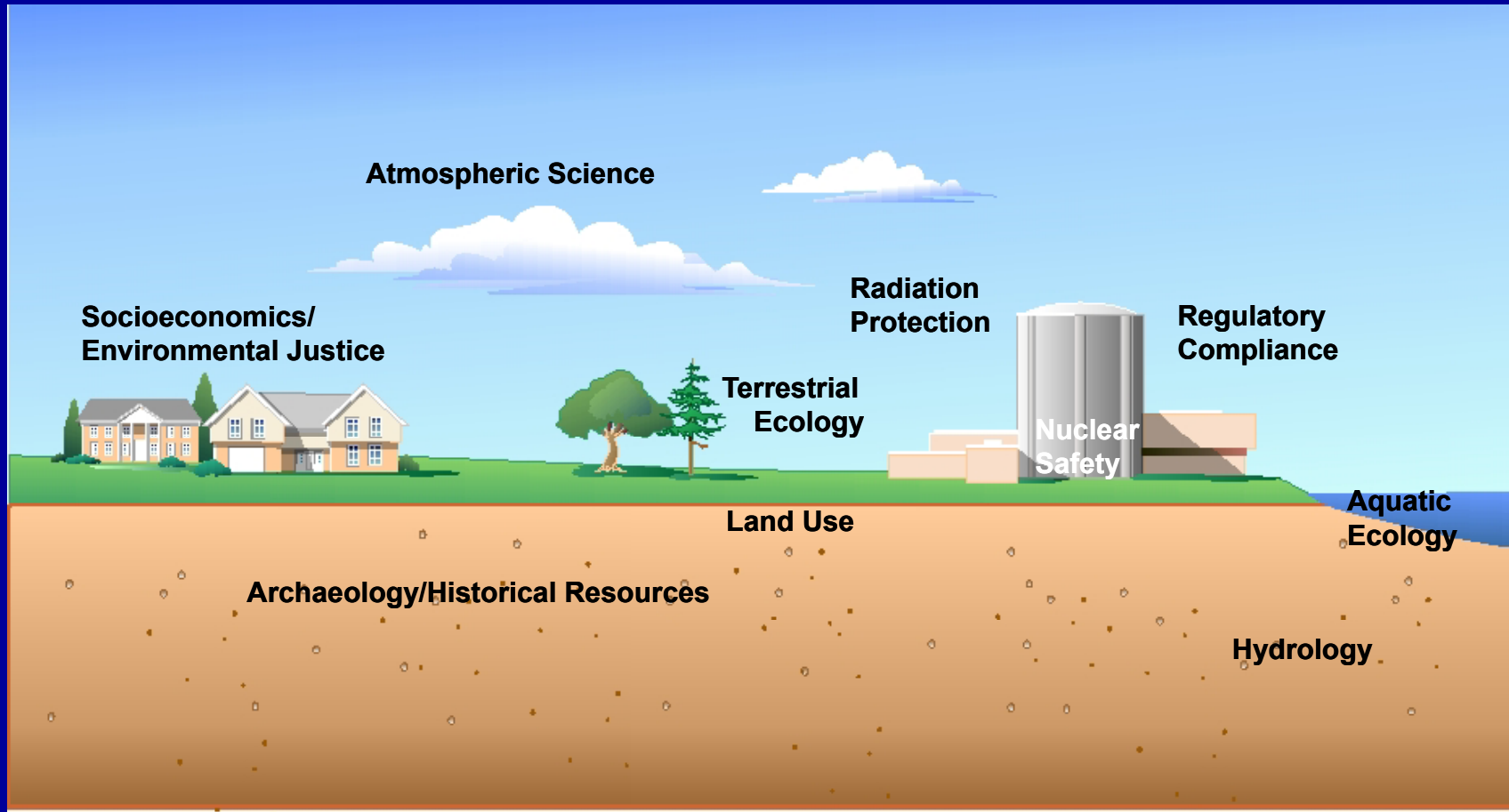


# How Impacts are Quantified

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- NRC-defined impact levels:
  - **SMALL** - Effects are not detectable or are so minor that they will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.
  - **MODERATE** - Effects are sufficient to alter noticeably, but not to destabilize, important attributes of the resource.
  - **LARGE** - Effects are clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.

# Reviewing Areas



# Site-Specific Environmental Review of STP License Renewal

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Reviewing Areas	Impact	DSEIS Section
Land Use	SMALL	4.1
Air Quality	SMALL	4.2
Surface Water Resources	SMALL	4.3
Groundwater Resources	SMALL	4.4
Aquatic Resources	SMALL	4.5
Terrestrial Resources	SMALL	4.6
Protected Species and Habitats	SMALL	4.7
Human Health	SMALL to MODERATE*	4.8
Socioeconomics	SMALL	4.9

\* SMALL impacts except for the impacts of electromagnetic fields acute effects (electric shock) that are SMALL to MODERATE

# Electromagnetic Fields Acute Effects

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- To prevent electric shock from induced current, National Electric Safety Code limits the transmission lines to 5 milliamperes.
- Some transmission lines from STP exceed the 5 milliampere criterion.
- STPNOC has provided potential mitigation options to reduce or avoid the adverse impacts.

# Cumulative Impacts

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- Overall impacts to environment including past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions
  - evaluated to end of 20-year renewal term
  - geographic boundaries dependent on resource
- Preliminary findings
  - SMALL to MODERATE cumulative impacts

# Waste Confidence Decision

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- NRC Waste Confidence Decision and Rule (WCD) addresses management of spent fuel after the renewal term.
- Consistent with the Commission direction, STP renewed licenses will not be issued until the issues related to waste confidence are appropriately addressed.
- WCD Environmental Impact Statement is being developed by the WCD directorate, to be available in 2014.

# Alternatives

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- Alternative energy sources analyzed (power replacement)
  - New generation (Coal, Natural Gas, Nuclear)
  - Combination of alternatives (Gas, Wind, and Energy Efficiency)
  - Purchased electrical power
  - Other considered but dismissed alternatives (e.g., Oil, Wind, Solar, Conservation)
- No action alternative
- Environmental effects of alternatives in at least some impact categories reach MODERATE or LARGE significance

# Additional Information

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- Environmental PM:

**Tam Tran**

**(800) 368-5642, Ext. 3617**

**[tam.tran@nrc.gov](mailto:tam.tran@nrc.gov)**

- The draft SEIS can be viewed at:

➤ Bay City Public Library, 1100 Seventh Street, Bay City, TX 77414

- NRC's Web site ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)):

➤ <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/>



# NRC Safety Review Status

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- The reviewing status is on the web.  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/south-texas-project.html>
- In December 2012, the applicant requested the safety review be suspended until January 1, 2014, to better focus the applicant's safety resources.
- Safety review will be independently reviewed by the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) . There will be ACRS reviewing meetings open to the public.

# Submitting Comments After the Meeting

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- By mail: Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB)  
Division of Administrative Services  
Mailstop TWB-05-B01M, Faxes 301-492-3446  
U.S. NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001
- In person: 11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland
- Internet: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), docket ID: nrc-2010-0375

**Comments due by February 22, 2013**

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