

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Notice of Receipt and Availability of Application for Renewal of Facility Operating License

Comment On: NRC-2010-0375-0068

STP Nuclear Operating Company, South Texas Project; Notice of Availability of Draft Supplement 48 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants and Public Meetings for the License Renewal of South Texas Project

Document: NRC-2010-0375-DRAFT-0075

Comment on FR Doc # 2012-30478

12/18/2012
 77 FR 74882

Submitter Information

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Albuquerque, NM, 87104

Submitter's Representative: Stephen R. Spencer

Organization: U.S. Department of the Interior

Government Agency Type: Federal

Government Agency: DOI

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
 BRANCH
 USNRC

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

ER12-888 DOI STP Comments

SUNSI Review Complete
 Template = ADM - 013
 E-RIDS= ADM -03

Add= T. Fran (TXT)



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
1001 Indian School Road NW, Suite 348
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104



ER 12/888
File 9043.1

February 21, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Cindy Bladey
Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Administrative Services
Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Bladey:

The U.S. Department of the Interior has reviewed the Generic Draft Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 48, dated November 2012, for the license renewal regarding Units 1 and 2 of the South Texas Project (STP) located in Matagorda County, and associated transmission lines located in Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, Fayette, Colorado, Guadalupe, Bexar, Comal, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria, DeWitt, Gonzales, Karnes, and Wilson Counties, Texas. Our comments are provided below for your consideration before accepting a final EIS and approving renewal of the STP Nuclear Operating Company license.

General Comments

Threatened and Endangered Species

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission initiated and is currently undergoing informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding federally listed species:

Threatened

San Marcos salamander (*Eurycea nana*)
Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*)

Endangered

Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*)
Texas blind salamander (*Typhlomolge rathbuni*)
Golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia*)

Northern aplomado falcon (*Falco Femoralis septentrionalis*)
Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)
Attwater's greater prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido attwateri*)
Black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)

Candidate Species

Candidate species are those being considered for possible listing pursuant to the ESA. While these species are not legally protected under the ESA, the FWS provides information on these species for consideration in your environmental review process and to encourage efforts to avoid adverse impacts to these species. The following candidate freshwater mussel species may occur within the project area.

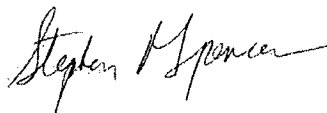
Freshwater mussels

Texas Fatmucket *Lampsilis bracteata*
Smooth Pimpleback *Quadrula houstonensis*
Texas Pimpleback *Quadrula petrina*
Texas Fawnsfoot *Truncilla macrodon*

The enclosure details best management practices for use during maintenance activities in the project area and along transmission corridors to assist in reducing impacts to freshwater mussels.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project. We look forward to working with you in the near future. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Edith Erfling, Supervisor, FWS Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office, at 281-286-8282.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Spencer, Ph.D.
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosure

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PROJECTS AFFECTING RIVERS, STREAMS AND TRIBUTARIES

The project crosses or potentially affects river, stream or tributary aquatic habitat. Therefore, the FWS recommends implementing the following applicable Best Management Practices:

1. Construct stream crossings during a period of low streamflow (e.g., July - September);
2. Cross streams, stream banks and riparian zones at right angles and at gentle slopes;
3. When feasible, directionally bore under stream channels;
4. Disturb riparian and floodplain vegetation only when necessary;
5. Construction equipment should cross the stream at one confined location over an existing bridge, equipment pads, clean temporary native rock fill, or over a temporary portable bridge;
6. Limit in-stream equipment use to that needed to construct crossings;
7. Place trench spoil at least 25 feet away landward from streambanks;
8. Use sediment filter devices to prevent movement of spoil off right-of-way when standing or flowing water is present;
9. Trench de-watering, as necessary, should be conducted to prevent discharge of silt laden water into the stream channel;
10. Maintain the current contours of the bank and channel bottom;
11. Do not store hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, lubricating oils, and other such substances within 100 feet of streambanks;
12. Refuel construction equipment at least 100 feet from streambanks;
13. Revegetate all disturbed areas as soon as possible after construction to prevent unnecessary soil erosion. Use only native riparian plants to help prevent the spread of exotics;
14. Maintain sediment filters at the base of all slopes located adjacent to the streams until right-of-way vegetation becomes established;
15. Maintain a vegetative filtration strip adjacent to streams and wetlands. The width of a filter strip is based on the slope of the banks and the width of the stream. Guidance to determine the appropriate filter strip (stream management zone) (SMZ) width is provided below; and
16. Direct water runoff into vegetated areas.

SMZ widths should consider watershed characteristics, risk of erosion, soil type, and stream width. SMZ widths are measured from the top of each bank and established on each side of the stream. Erosion risk is increased with sandy soil, steep slopes, large watersheds and increasing stream widths. Recommended primary and secondary SMZ widths are provided in the table below.

Stream Width (feet)	Slope (percent)	Primary SMZ (feet)	Secondary SMZ (feet)
<20	<7	35	0
<20	7-20	35	50
<20	>20	Top of slope or 150	75
20-50	<7	50	0
20-50	7-20	50	50
20-50	>20	Top of slope or 150	75
>50	<7	Width of stream or 100 max.	0
>50	7-20	Width of stream or 100 max.	50
>50	>20	Top of slope or 150	75