



# NRC NEWS

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## **NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN HEARING ON NEW NUCLEAR REACTOR APPLICATION FOR SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT SITE**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today announced the opportunity to participate in the hearing on a Combined License (COL) application for two new reactors at the South Texas Project site near Bay City, Texas.

NRG Energy and South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company submitted the COL application and associated information Sept. 20, 2007, and updated the application on Jan. 31, 2008, and Sept. 24, 2008. The application seeks approval to build and operate two Advanced Boiling Water Reactors (ABWR) at the site, approximately 12 miles southwest of Bay City. The NRC certified the ABWR design in 1997, and the design is currently in use overseas. The application (minus proprietary or security-related details), is available on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/south-texas-project.html>.

The NRC staff determined in November 2007 that the application contained sufficient information for the agency to formally “docket,” or file, the application and begin its technical review. Much of the review was suspended in January 2008, following the applicants’ decision to change reactor vendors, and the application’s Sept. 24, 2008, revision reflected that change. The staff has determined the updated application is sufficient to restart review activities. Restarting the application’s review does not preclude additional requests for information as the review proceeds; nor does it indicate whether the Commission will issue the license. The docket numbers established for this application are 52-012 and 52-013.

The NRC has issued in the *Federal Register* a notice of opportunity to intervene in the proceeding on the application, and the deadline for requesting a hearing is April 21. Petitions may be filed by anyone whose interest may be affected by the proposed license, who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding, and who meets criteria set out in the NRC’s regulations. Background information regarding the hearing process was provided by NRC staff to members of the public during a June 2007 public information session in Bay City.

A petition to intervene must be electronically submitted in a timely manner to the NRC’s Electronic Information Exchange (EIE) system. The petition to intervene must be filed in accordance with the NRC’s E-Filing Rule that appeared in the *Federal Register* on Aug. 28,

2007. Additional guidance and instructions regarding electronic submissions to the NRC EIE system are available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>.

Detailed information about the new reactor licensing process can be found on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors.html>.

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