



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

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LICENSING BOARD TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENT OCT. 21 IN BAY CITY, TEXAS, ON SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT NEW NUCLEAR REACTOR APPLICATION

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) panel will hear oral argument in the South Texas Project Combined License (COL) proceeding on Oct. 21 in Bay City, Texas. The ASLB is the independent body within the NRC that presides over proceedings involving the licensing of civilian nuclear facilities, such as nuclear power plants.

Oral argument will begin at 9 a.m. CDT on Thursday, Oct. 21, in the Main Hall of the Bay City Civic Center, 201 7th St. in Bay City. The session is open for public observation, but participation will be limited to the parties admitted to the proceeding (several public interest groups, the applicant – STP Nuclear Operating Company – and NRC staff). Early arrival is suggested to allow for security screening for all members of the public interested in attending. NRC policy prohibits signs, banners, posters or displays in the hearing room.

STP Nuclear Operating Company submitted a COL application Sept. 20, 2007, seeking permission to construct and operate two new nuclear reactors at the South Texas Project site near Bay City. The ASLB granted intervenor status and an opportunity for a hearing to the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition, the South Texas Association for Responsible Energy, and Public Citizen. The groups have submitted objections, or contentions, challenging the COL application. The ASLB panel will hear oral argument on several matters: two motions to dismiss the groups' admitted contention; the groups' request to file additional contentions based on the NRC staff's draft Environmental Impact Statement; and the groups' request for access to a draft NRC document regarding new reactor reviews.

Documents related to the South Texas Project COL application are available on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/south-texas-project.html>. Documents pertaining to the ASLB proceeding are available in the agency's electronic hearing docket at: <http://ehd1.nrc.gov/EHD>.

More information about the ASLB can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/organization/aslbpfundesc.html>.

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