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CONTACT: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

NRC To Issue South Texas Project New Reactor Licenses, Following Conclusion of Mandatory Hearing

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cleared the way for the agency's Office of New Reactors to issue two Combined Licenses (COL) for Nuclear Innovation North America's (NINA) South Texas Project site in Texas. Based on the mandatory hearing on NINA's application, the Commission found the staff's review adequate to make the necessary regulatory safety and environmental findings.

Following the Commissioners' direction, the NRC staff will work to issue the COLs promptly. The licenses will authorize NINA to build and operate two [Advanced Boiling Water Reactors](#) (ABWR) at the site near Bay City, Texas. The South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company already operates two reactors at the site. The staff will impose several conditions on the license, including:

- specific actions associated with the agency's post-Fukushima requirements for [Mitigation Strategies](#) and [Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation](#);
- requiring monitoring and analysis of the reactors' steam dryers during initial plant startup, in line with current procedures for existing boiling-water reactors approved to operate at increased power levels; and
- setting a pre-startup schedule for post-Fukushima aspects of the new reactor's emergency preparedness plans and procedures.

NINA submitted its application for the licenses on Sept. 20, 2007. The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards independently reviewed aspects of the application that concern safety, as well as the staff's [final safety evaluation report](#) (FSER). The committee provided the [results](#) of its review to the Commission on Feb. 19, 2015. The NRC completed its environmental review and issued the [final environmental impact statement](#) for the proposed South Texas Project reactors in February 2011. The NRC completed and issued the FSER on Sept. 29, 2015. The NRC certified the 1,300-megawatt ABWR design in 1997; more information on the certification process is available on the [NRC website](#).