



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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LICENSING BOARD TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENT APRIL 7 IN BAY CITY, TEXAS, ON SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT NEW NUCLEAR REACTOR APPLICATION

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) panel will hear oral argument regarding a hearing in the South Texas Project Combined License (COL) proceeding on April 7 in Bay City, Texas. The ASLB is the independent body within the NRC that presides over hearings where the public can challenge proposed licensing and enforcement actions.

Oral arguments will begin at 9 a.m. CDT on Wednesday, April 7, in Room 100 of the Main Hall in 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 -- South Texas Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) -- and NRC staff involved in the proceeding). 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.

STPNOC 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 the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition, the South Texas Association for Responsible Energy, and Public Citizen the right to intervene in the proceeding. The groups have submitted several objections, or contentions, against the STPNOC application. The ASLB panel will hear oral argument on several points: motions to dismiss several of the groups' contentions; amended versions of some contentions; and the groups' attempt to file additional contentions.

Documents related to the South Texas Project COL application are available on the NRC Web site 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 document library at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>.

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

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