

No: 13-079

September 16, 2013

CONTACT: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hold Hearing Oct. 16 in Houston on Proposed New South Texas Project Reactors

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) will hold a hearing Wednesday, Oct. 16 in Houston, concerning a challenge to the Combined License application for two new nuclear reactors at the South Texas Project site near Bay City, Texas. The ASLB is the independent body within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that conducts adjudicatory hearings and renders decisions on legal challenges to licensing actions.

The hearing, which begins at 9 a.m. CDT, will be held in Courtroom 11B of the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courthouse at 515 Rusk Ave. in Houston. If necessary, the board will continue the hearing through Thursday, Oct. 17. The board could close a portion of the hearing to the public if proprietary information must be discussed. Members of the public and media are welcome to observe the evidentiary hearing, but participation in the hearing will be limited to the parties and their lawyers and witnesses. Those planning to attend the evidentiary hearing should arrive at least 15 minutes early to allow time for security screening, including searches of hand-carried items such as briefcases or backpacks. No signs will be permitted in the courtroom.

The board will also take written comments from interested members of the public, known as limited appearance statements. These statements are not testimony or evidence, but they nonetheless may aid the board and/or the parties in considering the issues in the hearing. Statements may be submitted until 5 p.m. EDT on October 9, via mail to: Office of the Secretary Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; via fax to (301) 415-1101 or via e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov. Copies of the statements should also be submitted to: Administrative Judge Michael M. Gibson, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3F23, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; via fax to (301) 415-5599, or via email to carter.thurman@nrc.gov and michael.gibson@nrc.gov.

This hearing involves Nuclear Innovation North America's application to build two Advanced Boiling-Water Reactors at the South Texas Project site. The hearing will examine whether the applicant's planned corporate governing structure and financing comply with the NRC's rules prohibiting foreign ownership, control and domination.

Documents related to the [South Texas Project application](#) are available on the NRC website. Documents regarding this board's proceeding are available on the NRC's [Electronic Hearing Docket](#) by clicking on the folder entitled "South_Texas_52-012&013-COL" on the left side of the page. More information about [the role of the ASLB](#) in the licensing process is available on the NRC website.