



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 17, 2011

Bernard F. Barcena Jr., Chairman
Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas
PO Box 8888
Corpus Christi, TX 78426

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT,
UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Chairman Bernard F. Barcena Jr.:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) for the renewal of the operating license for the South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2, located in Matagorda, Texas. STP is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Section 51.28(b) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the NRC invites the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for STP, Units 1 and 2, will expire on August 20, 2027, and December 15, 2028, respectively. STPNOC submitted its application for renewal of the STP, Units 1 and 2, operating licenses by letter dated October 25, 2010.

The NRC is gathering information for a STP, Units 1 and 2, site-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the STP, Units 1 and 2, site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action. Provided for your information is the STP, Units 1 and 2, Site Layout (Enclosure 1) and Transmission Line Map (Enclosure 2).

The NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the South Texas Project license renewal site-specific supplement to the GEIS on March 2, 2011, at the Bay City Civic Center, Main Hall, Room 100, 201 Seventh Street, Bay City, TX 77414. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 3:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 9:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The license renewal application is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. The accession number for the license renewal application is ML103010256. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's Public Document Room reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr.resource@nrc.gov.

The STP, Units 1 and 2, license renewal application is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/south-texas-project.html>. In addition, the Bay City Public Library, located at 1100 7th Street, Bay City, TX 77414, has agreed to make the application available for public inspection.

The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any comments that the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by April 1, 2011. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC at <http://www.regulations.gov> referencing documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2010-0375. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and provide you a copy.

The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication in 2012), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS.

B. Barcena

- 3 -

The issuance of the final SEIS for STP, Units 1 and 2, is planned for 2012. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Tam Tran, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3617 or by e-mail at Tam.Tran@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

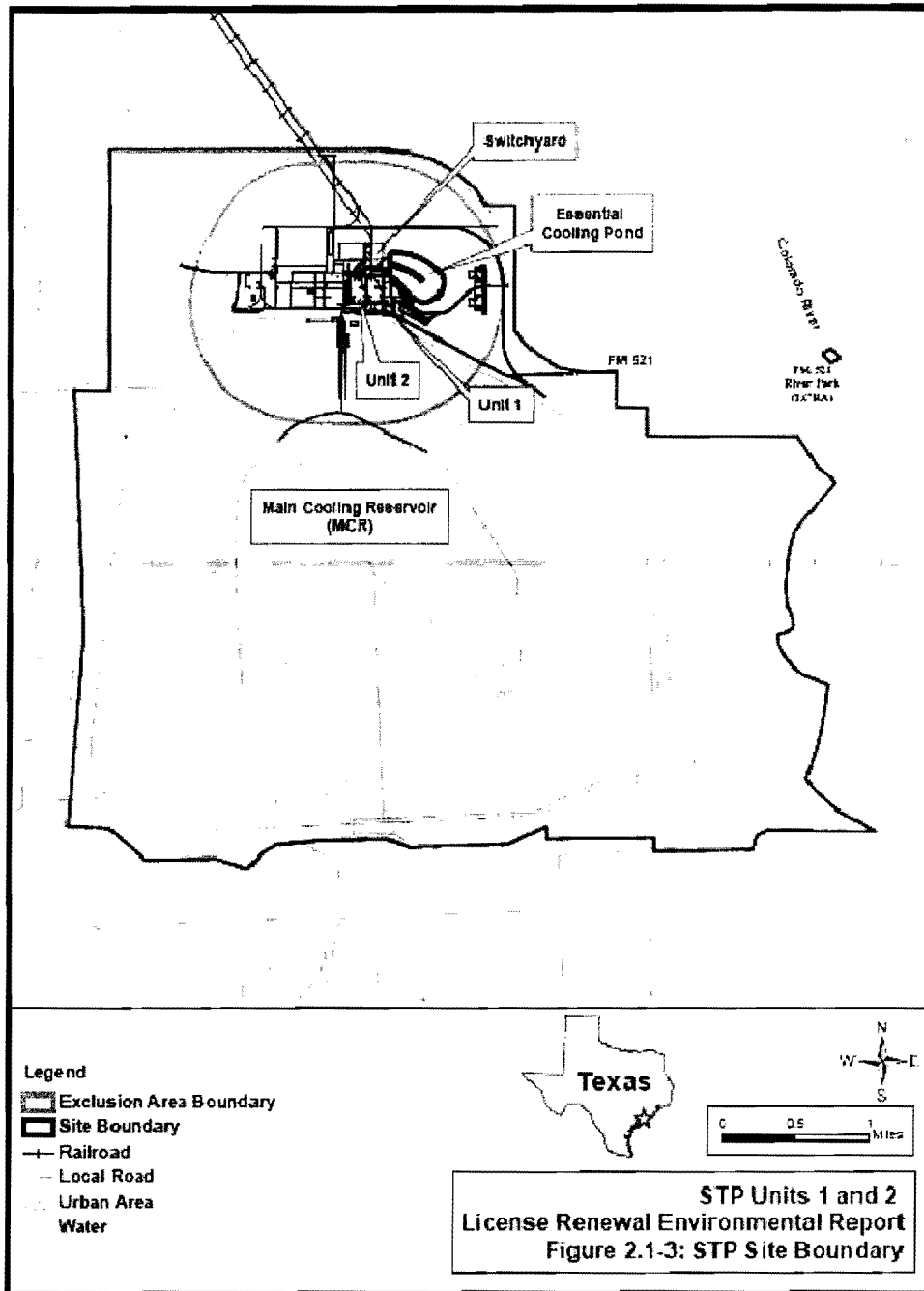
Bo M. Pham, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

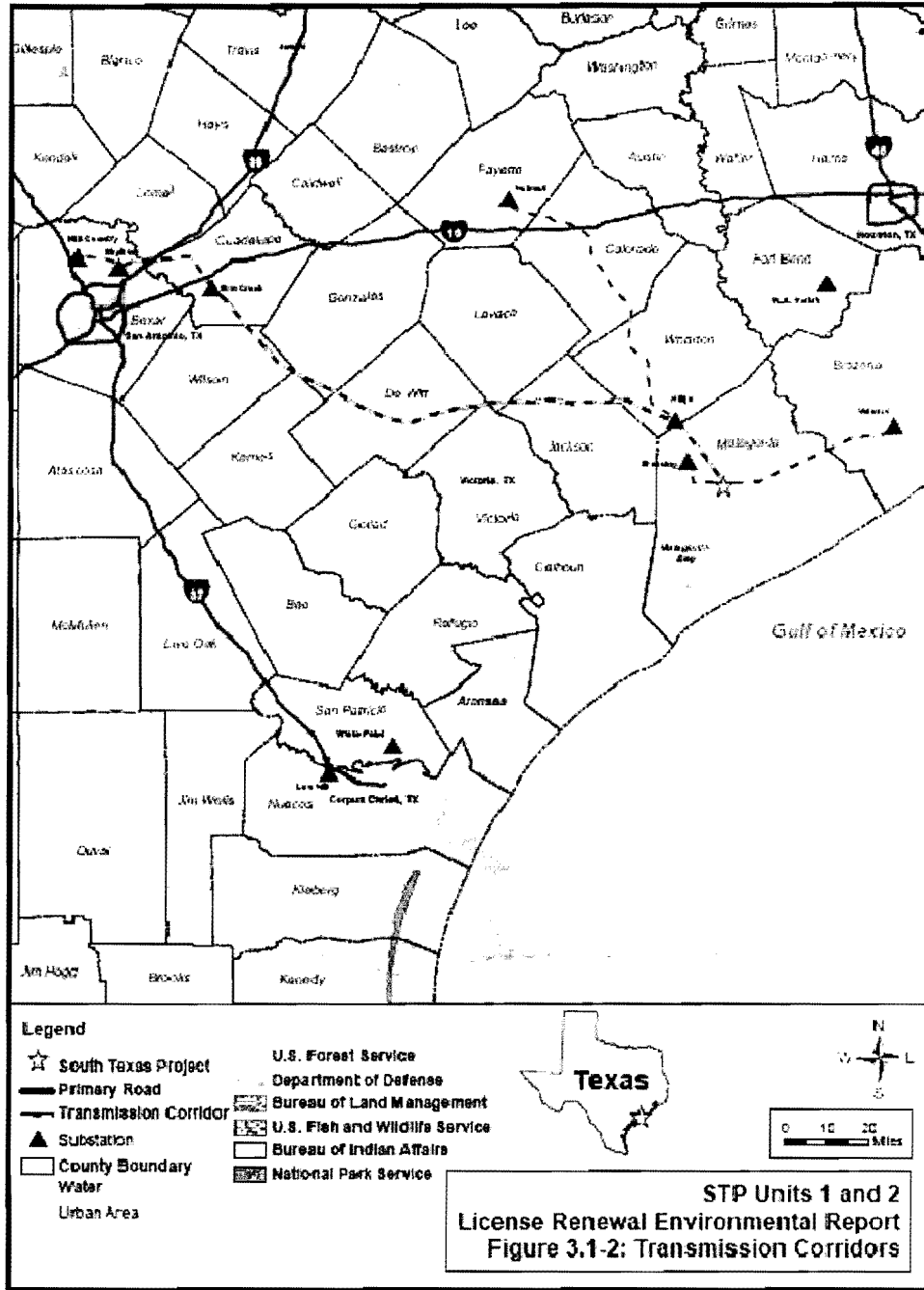
Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls.: Distribution via Listserv

SITE LAYOUT



TRANSMISSION LINE MAP



B. Barcena

- 3 -

The issuance of the final SEIS for STP, Units 1 and 2, is planned for 2012. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Tam Tran, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3617 or by e-mail at Tam.Tran@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo M. Pham, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls.: Distribution via Listserv

DISTRIBUTION:

See next page

ADAMS Accession Number: (Pkg.) ML110200002 (Ltr.) ML110390321

OFFICE	PM: DLR/RPB1	BC:DLR/RERB	BC:DLR/RPB1
NAME	TTran	Almboden	BPham
DATE	02/16/2011	02/14/2011	02/17/2011

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Bernard F. Barcena Jr. from Bo M. Pham dated February 17, 2011

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT,
UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

DISTRIBUTION:

HARD COPY:

DLR R/F

E-MAIL:

PUBLIC

RidsNrrDlr Resource

RidsNrrDlrRpb1 Resource

RidsNrrDlrRpb2 Resource

RidsNrrDlrRerb Resource

RidsNrrDlrRpob Resource

RidsNrrDraApla Resource

RidsOgcMailCenter

TTran

CFells

ICouret, PA

MThadani, DORL

GPick, RIV

JDixon, RIV

VDricks, RIV

WMaier, RIV

CTucci

RCaniano, RIV

DChamberlain, RIV

EWilliamson, OGC

DRomero