

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50–498 and 50–499]
[License Nos. NPF–76 and NPF–80]

In the Matter of Texas Genco, LP, STP Nuclear Operating Company; South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2; Order Approving Application Regarding Proposed Indirect Acquisition of Texas Genco, LP By NRG Energy, Inc.

STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC), Texas Genco, LP (Texas Genco), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio (CPS), and the City of Austin, Texas (COA) are co-holders of Facility Operating Licenses (which are numbered NPF–76 and NPF–80), that authorize the possession, use, and operation of the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 (the facility or STP). STPNOC is licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) to operate STP. Texas Genco, CPS, and COA are co-owners of the facility and licensed to possess STP. The facility is located in Matagorda County, Texas.

By application dated October 14, 2005, STPNOC, acting on behalf of Texas Genco and NRG Energy, Inc. (NRG Energy) (together, the applicants), requested that the NRC, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, consent to the indirect transfer of the STP licenses held by Texas Genco that would be effected by the indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco's 44 percent undivided ownership interest in STP to NRG Energy. This action is being sought as a result of the agreement between NRG Energy and Texas Genco LLC, which indirectly owns 100 percent of Texas Genco, for NRG Energy to acquire all of the outstanding equity of Texas Genco LLC from the current owners of Texas Genco LLC. The current owners are investment fund entities affiliated with the Blackstone Group, Hellman & Friedman LLC, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., L.P., and Texas Pacific Group (Investment Funds), and certain members of the Texas Genco LLC management.

In connection with the indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco's ownership interest in STP, indirect control over Texas Genco's corresponding interest in STPNOC will also be transferred. To the extent that the indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco's interest in STPNOC would constitute an indirect transfer of control of the licenses as held by STPNOC, NRC consent under 10 CFR 50.80 has also been requested.

Notice of the requests for approval and an opportunity for a hearing was

published in the **Federal Register** on November 29, 2005 (70 FR 71561). No comments or hearing requests were received.

Under 10 CFR 50.80(a), no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. Upon review of the information in the application and other information before the Commission, the NRC staff has determined that the proposed indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco to NRG Energy will not affect the qualifications of Texas Genco as holder of the STP licenses, and that the indirect transfer of the licenses as held by Texas Genco, to the extent effected by the indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco, is otherwise consistent with the applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto. The NRC staff has further determined that, to the extent the proposed indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco would result in an indirect transfer of control of the STP licenses as held by STPNOC, the proposed indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco will not affect the qualifications of STPNOC to hold the STP licenses, and such indirect transfer of control of the licenses as held by STPNOC is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

The findings set forth above are supported by a safety evaluation dated January 12, 2006.

Accordingly, pursuant to sections 161b, 161i, and 184 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2201(b), 2201(i), and 2234; and 10 CFR 50.80, *It Is Hereby Ordered* that the application regarding the indirect license transfers related to the proposed acquisition is approved, subject to the following condition:

Should the indirect transfer of control of Texas Genco to NRG Energy not be completed by January 31, 2007, this Order shall become null and void, provided, however, upon written application and good cause shown, such date may be extended by order.

This Order is effective upon issuance. For further details with respect to this Order, see the application dated October 14, 2005, and the safety evaluation dated January 12, 2006, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area 01 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland and accessible electronically

from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1–800–397–4209, 301–415–4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 12th day of January, 2006.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Catherine Haney,

Director, Division of Operating Reactor Licensing, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. E6–710 Filed 1–20–06; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

January 2006 Pay Adjustments

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The President adjusted the rates of basic pay and locality payments for certain categories of Federal employees effective in January 2006. This notice documents those pay adjustments for the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brenda Roberts, Center for Pay and Performance Policy, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management; (202) 606–2858; FAX (202) 606–0824; or e-mail to pay-performance-policy@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 22, 2005, the President signed Executive Order 13393 (70 FR 76655), which implemented the January 2006 pay adjustments. The President made these adjustments consistent with Public Law 109–115, November 30, 2005, which authorized an overall average pay increase of 3.1 percent for the “statutory pay systems,” including the General Schedule (GS).

Schedule 1 of Executive Order 13393 provides the rates for the 2006 General Schedule and reflects a 2.1 percent across-the-board increase. Executive Order 13393 also includes the percentage amounts of the 2006 locality payments. (See section 5 and Schedule 9 of Executive Order 13393.)

The publication of this notice satisfies the requirement in section 5(b) of Executive Order 13393 that the Office of

Personnel Management (OPM) publish appropriate notice of the 2006 locality payments in the **Federal Register**.

GS employees receive locality payments under 5 U.S.C. 5304. Locality payments apply in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. In 2006, locality payments ranging from 12.52 percent to 28.68 percent apply to GS employees in 32 locality pay areas. (Changes in the 2006 locality pay areas definitions can be found at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/06tables/locdef.asp>.) These 2006 locality pay percentages, which replaced the locality pay percentages that were applicable in 2005, become effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2006. An employee's locality-adjusted annual rate of pay is computed by increasing his or her scheduled annual rate of basic pay (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5302(8) and 5 CFR 531.602) by the applicable locality pay percentage. (See 5 CFR 531.604 and 531.607.)

Executive Order 13393 establishes the new Executive Schedule, which incorporates a 1.9 percent increase required under 5 U.S.C. 5318 (rounded to the nearest \$100). By law, Executive Schedule officials are not authorized to receive locality payments.

Executive Order 13393 establishes the range of rates of basic pay for senior executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), as established pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5382. The minimum rate of basic pay for the SES may not be less than the minimum rate payable under 5 U.S.C. 5376 for senior-level positions (\$109,808 in 2006), and the maximum rate of basic pay may not exceed the rate for level III of the Executive Schedule (\$152,000 in 2006). The maximum rate of the SES rate range will increase to level II of the Executive Schedule (\$165,200 in 2006) for SES members covered by performance appraisal systems that are certified under 5 U.S.C. 5307(d) as making meaningful distinctions based on relative performance. By law, SES members are not authorized to receive locality payments. Agencies with certified performance appraisal systems in 2006 for senior executives and/or senior-level (SL) and scientific or professional (ST) positions also must apply a higher aggregate limitation on pay—up to the Vice President's salary (\$212,100 in 2006).

The Executive order adjusted the rates of basic pay for administrative law judges (ALJs) by 2.1 percent (rounded to the nearest \$100). The maximum rate of basic pay for ALJs is set by law at the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule, which is now \$143,000. The

rate of basic pay for AL-2 is \$139,500. The rates of basic pay for AL-3/A through 3/F range from \$95,500 to \$132,000. (See 5 U.S.C. 5372.)

The rates of basic pay for members of Contract Appeals Boards are calculated as a percentage of the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule. (See 5 U.S.C. 5372a.) Therefore, these rates of basic pay were increased by approximately 1.9 percent. Also, the maximum rate of basic pay for SL/ST positions was increased by approximately 1.9 percent (to \$143,000) because it is tied to the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule. The minimum rate of basic pay for SL/ST positions is equal to 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay for GS-15 and thus was increased by 2.1 percent (to \$109,808). (See 5 U.S.C. 5376.)

On November 22, 2005, the President's Pay Agent extended the 2006 locality-based comparability payments to certain categories of non-GS employees. The Government-wide categories include employees in SL/ST positions, ALJs, and Contract Appeals Board members. The maximum locality rate of pay for these employees is the rate for level III of the Executive Schedule (\$152,000 in 2006).

On December 22, 2005, OPM issued a memorandum (CPM 2005-25) on the January 2006 pay adjustments. (See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/compmemo/2005/2005-25.asp>.) The memorandum transmitted Executive Order 13393 and provided the 2006 salary tables, locality pay areas and percentages, and information on general pay administration matters and other related information. The "2006 Salary Tables" posted on OPM's Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/06tables/index.asp> are the official rates of pay for affected employees and are hereby incorporated as part of this notice.

Office of Personnel Management.

Linda M. Springer,

Director.

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BILLING CODE 6325-39-P

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Extension:

Reports of Evidence of Material Violations, SEC File No. 270-514, OMB Control No. 3235-0572.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. sections 3501-3520, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit the existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") for extension.

On February 6, 2003, the Commission published final rules, effective August 5, 2003, entitled "Standards of Professional Conduct for Attorneys Appearing and Practicing Before the Commission in the Representation of an Issuer" (17 CFR 205.1-205.7). The information collection embedded in the rules is necessary to implement the Standards of Professional Conduct for Attorneys prescribed by the rule and required by section 307 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The rules impose an "up-the-ladder" reporting requirement when attorneys appearing and practicing before the Commission become aware of evidence of a material violation by the issuer or any officer, director, employee, or agent of the issuer. An issuer may choose to establish a qualified legal compliance committee ("QLCC") as an alternative procedure for reporting evidence of a material violation. In the rare cases in which a majority of a QLCC has concluded that an issuer did not act appropriately, the information may be communicated to the Commission. The collection of information is, therefore, an important component of the Commission's program to discourage violations of the federal securities laws and promote ethical behavior of attorneys appearing and practicing before the Commission.

The respondents to this collection of information are attorneys who appear and practice before the Commission and, in certain cases, the issuer, and/or officers, directors and committees of the issuer. We believe that, in providing quality representation to issuers, attorneys report evidence of violations to others within the issuer, including the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Executive Officer, and, where necessary, the directors. In addition, officers and directors investigate evidence of violations and report within the issuer the results of the investigation and the remedial steps they have taken or sanctions they have imposed. Except as discussed below, we therefore believe that the reporting requirements imposed by the rule are "usual and customary"