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Texans Show Strong Support for Nuclear, Expanding South Texas Project

Results from statewide and Austin-specific surveys show strong support to expand nuclear energy

AUSTIN, TX – January 6, 2011 – Among registered voters, 83% of Texans statewide and 64% of Austinites believe that nuclear energy should play an important role in meeting the future energy needs of Texas, according to the results of two polls released today. The polls also show significant support for the proposed expansion of the South Texas Nuclear Project (STP) — a two-unit nuclear facility located in Matagorda County.

The polls were released by Nuclear Innovation North America LLC (NINA), an NRG Energy, Inc. partnership with Toshiba that is committed to bringing the most advanced nuclear technology to the United States. One poll was conducted statewide by Baselice and Associates, Inc. and the second was conducted among Austinites by Littlefield Consulting.

“The statewide poll results show that there is widespread support for nuclear energy in Texas,” said Mike Baselice, President and CEO of Baselice & Associates, Inc. “Furthermore, Texas voters recognize the benefits that can come from the building of two additional nuclear power plants in Bay City.”

Texans and Austinites agreed with several statements in the polls supporting nuclear energy and the STP expansion including:

- Nuclear energy helps to reduce Texas’ reliance on foreign energy sources.
Statewide: 79% percent, Austin 86%
- Nuclear energy is a source of reliable power at a stable price
Statewide: 78%, Austin: 75%
- Nuclear energy is a carbon-free energy source.
Statewide: 79%, Austin: 75%

“These two polls clearly show that Texans support new nuclear expansion playing an important role in meeting our state’s future energy needs. Texas continues to grow and the need for clean energy to support that future growth is critical. Expanding STP has overwhelming support in the local communities surrounding the plant and also regionally and statewide,” said Juan Garza, President of Advanced Technology for NRG Energy.

The construction of STP 3&4 would add two additional units that would generate approximately 2,700 megawatts — enough to power more than two million Texas homes. The construction of the units would also provide an additional 800 full-time Texas jobs to the region as well as 6,000

construction jobs at the peak of the four-year construction. STP is currently the largest employer in Matagorda County with 1,200 employees.

After hearing more about the issue, 72% of statewide respondents favor expanding STP and 70% of Austinites favor Austin Energy buying more power from STP.

“The environmental benefits of nuclear energy are at the forefront of Austin’s strong support on this issue. Austinites recognize the need for more power generation, but also express their concerns that this new generation be environmentally friendly and reliable, which respondents recognize as two strong benefits of nuclear energy,” said Mark Littlefield, CEO of Littlefield Consulting.

The site was originally constructed for four units and is currently equipped with sufficient infrastructure, land and water rights to accommodate two additional units. Constructing the two additional units at the site will introduce state-of-the-art and proven Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) nuclear technology into Texas. ABWR is the only advanced nuclear technology that is both certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and is fully engineered, having been built on time and on budget four times.

“The addition of two new reactors will provide energy that is both emissions-free and made in the Lone Star state. It is a responsible approach to meet the growing demand for energy and need for new baseload generation in Texas,” added Garza.

The complete survey results can be found at <http://www.nuclearinnovation.com/news/index.html>.

About Nuclear Innovation North America

Nuclear Innovation North America (NINA) is a partnership between NRG Energy and Toshiba focused on developing new nuclear expansion projects using Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) technology—the only advanced nuclear technology certified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that has been built on time and on budget. NINA is currently developing the 2,700-megawatt South Texas Project expansion with San Antonio’s CPS Energy and the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company. NINA is also exploring other development opportunities to employ ABWR in additional projects across North America.

About NRG Energy

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 and S&P 500 Index company, owns and operates one of the country’s largest and most diverse power generation portfolios. Headquartered in Princeton, NJ, the Company’s power plants provide nearly 26,000 megawatts of generation capacity—enough to supply nearly 21 million homes. NRG’s retail businesses, Reliant Energy and Green Mountain Energy Company, combined serve more than 1.8 million residential, business, commercial and industrial customers. With investments in solar, wind and nuclear power, as well as electric vehicle infrastructure, NRG is working to help America transition to a clean energy economy. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com.

About the South Texas Nuclear Project

STP Nuclear Operating Company manages the South Texas Project for plant owners Austin Energy, CPS Energy and NRG Energy. STP’s two-unit facility produces 2,700 megawatts of carbon-free electricity, enough to power two million homes. To learn more about the South Texas Project, visit www.stpnoc.com.

Contacts:

NRG/NINA

David Knox
713.795.6106

South Texas Nuclear Project

Buddy Eller
361-972-8015