

## Nuclear project gets good reaction

*A lot of utility owners out there will be progressing orders as this one gets going.*

The Facts  
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The president of NRG Energy, a company that owns and operates power-generating facilities in Texas, announced Wednesday plans to build two additional nuclear power units at the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station near Wadsworth in Matagorda County. The planned units will be built next to two existing nuclear reactors at the 12,220-acre power plant site.

Currently, the units produce 1,250 megawatts each. But the \$5.2 billion project would boost power-generating capacity, with the new units producing 2,700 megawatts, enough energy to power 2.5 million homes, Public Utility Commission Chairman Paul Hudson said.

NRG Energy President David Crane explained during a press conference Wednesday the need for a repowering initiative in Texas to meet the state's growing energy needs.

"The people of Texas will share the benefit with the rest of the country and the world," Crane said.

By 2030, the United States will need 45 percent more electricity, Hudson said. Each new nuclear unit is expected to create \$9.2 billion in economic activity for Texas, according to a statement released Wednesday. The project, slated for completion in 2014, will create 6,000 construction jobs during the peak construction period and 1,000 new permanent staff positions, Crane said.

"I have worked with leaders in the community to fight double-digit unemployment. This will mean great things for the area and for the state of Texas," said State Rep. Glenda Dawson, whose district includes parts of Brazoria and Matagorda counties.

The site was designed originally for four units, and it is the best location in the country to build the reactors, Crane said. The units will use an advanced boiling water reactor.

"We are very pleased with NRG's decision," said Joe Sheppard, CEO and president of STP. "It's an attest to the dedication, hard work and talent of the staff that works here everyday. We know we have been given a special trust to operate these units."

**On June 19, the company filed a letter of intent to submit an application with the U.S. Nuclear Regulation Commission**, an organization that regulates the use of nuclear materials.

The application will be submitted in the fall of 2007, and the review process could take three years. After approval, construction could take another five years, said Steve Winn, NRG's executive vice president and president of the Texas Region. However, the company can ask the commission for a limited work petition that would allow preliminary construction to begin ahead of schedule, he said.