



South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

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## **STP Unit 2 scheduled refueling outage begins with COVID-19 protections in place**

**Wadsworth, Texas – March 20, 2021** – STP’s Unit 2 commenced its 21<sup>st</sup> scheduled refueling and maintenance outage on Saturday, March 20, following the completion of a safe 18-month operating cycle. Plant operators, maintenance and support personnel will be supplemented by several hundred industry craftsmen and specialists from across the country to refuel the reactor and to conduct necessary reliability maintenance for our next operating cycle.

“We are committed to putting safety first, both with our onsite activities and in the manner by which we staff our outages with the unique challenges that the COVID-19 virus presents to us,” said Jim Connolly, STP’s Chief Nuclear Officer.

The station has enacted protective strategies to mitigate the potential for COVID-19 spread into our community and on our STP site. Multiple layers of protection have been adopted for the outage, including 100 percent testing of incoming contractors prior to working on-site, installation of plexiglass dividers in multiple work areas to promote social distancing and a health screening tent at the plant entrance to ensure all workers are pre-screened for temperature and other precursors known to indicate the presence of the COVID-19 virus. These protections have been added to the site’s existing and robust COVID-19 protective strategy, which includes requirements for health screening, masking and social distancing for all personnel.

“Our strategies have been developed in accordance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance. They will remain in place throughout the refueling outage, and until the Public Health Emergency is declared to be behind us as per CDC notification,” said Connolly.

This is STP’s 43<sup>rd</sup> refueling outage since beginning commercial operation in 1988. STP’s two units are on an 18-month refueling cycle.

During the Unit 2 outage, about one-third of the reactor’s fuel assemblies will be replaced with new ones. In addition, thousands of maintenance activities are scheduled to enhance equipment reliability and numerous plant systems and components will be tested and inspected.

“Significant planning and preparation has been completed to ensure that we thoroughly

inspect, test and complete a large scope of work during this outage, and do it all while maintaining the safest possible environment to guard against transmission of the COVID-19 virus,” said Connolly. “This work will prepare Unit 2 to operate safely and reliably until its’ next scheduled refueling outage.”

STP schedules refueling outages in the spring and fall when the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) electrical demand is lowest. The plant is managed by the STP Nuclear Operating Company and owned by NRG Energy, CPS Energy and Austin Energy. To learn more about STP, visit [www.stpnoc.com](http://www.stpnoc.com).

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