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STP Unit 1 Sets Operational Run Record; Scheduled Refueling Outage Begins

After establishing a record operational run, the South Texas Project safely started a scheduled refueling and maintenance outage of Unit 1 over the weekend. Unit 1 recorded the best performance in plant history beginning with its last refueling outage in spring 2011 to the current scheduled refueling and maintenance outage. The 1,250-megawatt unit operated for a plant-record 530 consecutive days. In 2011, Unit 1 ranked second nationally and sixth worldwide in production.



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“We are proud of this accomplishment and our track record of safely and reliably producing energy for our state,” said Dennis Koehl, STP Nuclear Operating Company President and CEO. “It’s a credit to the dedication and commitment of the men and women who make up our team at STP.”

The previous STP record for consecutive days on-line – held by Unit 2 – was 525 days, completed in 2008. The previous Unit 1 record was set from 2006 to 2008 with 511 consecutive days on-line.

During the Unit 1 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. Numerous plant systems and components will be tested and inspected. In all, more than 11,000 activities are scheduled. STP’s two units are on an 18-month refueling cycle. This is STP’s 32nd refueling outage since beginning commercial operation in 1988.

“Our team’s focus will be on conducting a safe and efficient refueling outage,” said Tim Powell, STP Vice President of Generation. “Safety is our highest priority, each and every day. It will be our primary focus during this outage.”

Approximately 1,100 contractors are on-site to assist during the refueling outage. The majority of these contractors – who come from across the nation – have worked previous refueling outages at STP.

“These additional teammates provide the resources necessary to accomplish the outage work scope efficiently and effectively,” said Powell. “In addition, they provide significant economic benefit to our local stores, restaurants and hotels.”

For eight consecutive years, STP has safely produced more electricity than any other two-unit facility in the nation. Combined, the two-unit facility produced 21.41 million megawatt-hours of energy in 2011.

STP schedules refueling outages in the spring and fall when electrical demand is lowest. The plant is managed by the STP Nuclear Operating Company and owned by Austin Energy, CPS Energy, and NRG Energy. STP’s twin reactors produce enough carbon-free energy to power two million Texas homes. To learn more about STP, visit www.stpnoc.com.

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