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TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Carolyn L. Brittin, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Resources Planning and Information

FROM: Matt Nelson, Team Lead, Regional Water Planning, Water Resources Planning and Information

DATE: September 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Amendment to the 2006 Region G Regional Water Plan

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approving an amendment to the 2006 Region G Regional Water Plan for a water management strategy to meet revised Steam-Electric water demands in Somervell County.

BACKGROUND

Luminant Power plans to add two new 1,700 MW generating units to its Comanche Peak power station in Somervell County. There are currently two existing nuclear generating units at the Comanche Peak power station. Because they were not considered in the 2006 Region G Regional Water Plan, the addition of these two new units will increase the projected steam-electric water demands for Somervell County over the currently projected steam-electric water demands in the 2006 Region G Regional Water Plan and 2007 State Water Plan throughout the planning horizon. The increased water demand will result in an increase in identified water needs in Somervell County.

Somervell County, on behalf of Luminant Power, requested that Region G amend its 2006 regional water plan to: a) increase the Somervell County steam-electric demands; and, b) to incorporate a water management strategy to meet those increased steam-electric water demands.

In certain cases, a region may expedite amending its regional water plan by using the ‘minor’ amendment process allowed under Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) rules (31 TAC § 357.16). The Region G Water Planning Group did not choose this alternative and was therefore required to hold a public hearing and to amend its plan per 31 TAC §357.12.

Our Mission

To provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.

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As required by TWDB rules (31 TAC § 357.5(d)(2) and §357.12) on July 9, 2008, the Region G Water Planning Group held a public hearing on the proposed amendment to increase the Somervell County steam-electric demands and to add a water management strategy to meet the increased steam-electric water demands in Somervell County. Following the hearing, the Region G Water Planning Group: a) approved submitting a request that the TWDB revise the Somervell County steam-electric water demands; and, b) approved an amendment to the 2006 Region G Regional Water Plan that added a water management strategy to meet the increased steam-electric water demands (see Attachment A).

The revised water demands for Somervell County will increase the year 2010 steam-electric water demand projection by approximately 42 percent with smaller increases in future decades; year 2060 water demand projection increases by approximately 25 percent.

Luminant's existing power station obtains its water from Squaw Creek Reservoir supplemented by diversions from Lake Granbury purchased from the Brazos River Authority (BRA). The new recommended water management strategy will use additional water purchased from BRA and diverted near the current diversion point on Lake Granbury. The new diversion will be approximately 76,270 acre-feet per year. The water will be delivered through two new pipelines to the two new power generating units that will operate independently from the existing units.

KEY ISSUES

The Region G Water Planning Group and TWDB received no written or verbal public comments in opposition to either revising the Somervell County steam-electric demands or against the proposed water management strategy to meet those increased water demands.

If the Board approves this regional water plan amendment, staff will be returning to the Board in November requesting approval to incorporate this regional plan amendment into the State Water Plan. As required by our rules (31 TAC § 358.3(a)), TWDB staff will post a 30-day public notice for a public hearing to amend the 2007 State Water Plan. The public hearing would be held in conjunction with the November Board meeting.

ANTICIPATED OPPOSITION

None.

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RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the amendment to the 2006 Region G Regional Water Plan for a water management strategy to meet increased Steam-Electric water demands in Somervell County.

This recommendation has been reviewed by legal counsel and is in compliance with applicable statutes and Board rules.

Ken Petersen
General Counsel

Attachment A: Region G cover letter announcement of an amendment to the 2006 Region G Regional Water Plan and the associated request to revise the projected steam electric water demands for Somervell County.

BRAZOS G

WATER PLANNING GROUP

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BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY, Administrative Agent
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July 9, 2008

To: Interested Parties

Re: Amendments to the 2006 Brazos G Regional Water Plan related to Steam Electric Water Demands in Somervell County

Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group has recommended to the Texas Water Development Board to amend the Steam-Electric demand in Somervell County as follows:

1. Increased Steam Electric Demands in Somervell County

Due to plans by Luminant Power to develop two new 1,700 MW nuclear generating units adjacent to the existing Comanche Peak Station, consumptive Steam Electric water demands in Somervell County will increase from 23,200 acre-feet per year (acft/yr) to 84,817 acft/yr, an increase of 61,617 acft/yr.

The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group hereby amends the 2006 Brazos G Regional Water Plan as follows:

1. Recommended Strategy to Supply Increased Steam Electric Demands in Somervell County

Supplies available for Steam Electric uses in Somervell County total 48,810 acft/yr in 2010, and will decrease to 48,710 acft/yr by 2060. Increased Steam Electric water demands will create a need (shortage) for an additional 36,107 acft/yr by 2060. The Brazos G Regional Water Planning Group recommends the water management strategy titled "Somervell County Steam Electric Supply from the Brazos River Authority", as shown in Attachment A, which is the revised plan for Somervell County Steam Electric Demands. Attachment B presents a detailed technical evaluation of the recommended strategy.