

South Texas Project's Water Use

What are the Effects on San Antonio?

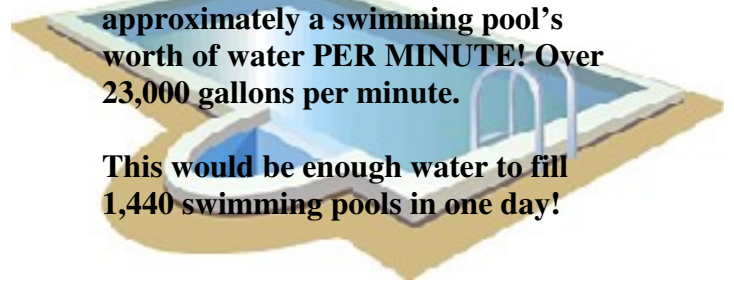
Nuclear power is the most water intensive energy source. Pursuing nuclear power makes no sense, when San Antonio and all of Texas are suffering from extreme drought and in need of drinking water.

South Texas Project's (STP) water use

- Normal withdrawal from the Colorado River for all four STP reactors will be 42,604 gallons per minute (gpm) and Units 3 & 4 would require 23,170 gpm of this total. STP's permitted withdrawal from the Colorado River per year is 102,000 acre-feet.
- Evaporation is STP's largest water use. The two proposed reactors would increase forced evaporation by an additional 37,400 acre-feet per year. The water required and withdrawn from the Colorado River to replace evaporated water for all four reactors would be about 74,500 acre-feet per year.
- Water withdrawal for STP's nuclear reactors can be a significant fraction of the total river flow. From January 1, 2001 through September 30, 2006 there were 69 days when withdrawal for existing STP reactors was equal to or greater than one quarter of the entire river flow. On September 16, 2001, the withdrawal was 48% of the total river flow. With four reactors and the doubling of the surface water demand, the river on a day like this would be nearly run dry!

The proposed reactors would require approximately a swimming pool's worth of water PER MINUTE! Over 23,000 gallons per minute.

This would be enough water to fill 1,440 swimming pools in one day!



Water versus Energy

- San Antonio Water System (SAWS) was unable to secure rights to 330,000 acre-feet per year of water from the Colorado River. An attorney for SAWS told the Express-News that power companies' proposed river water use "may have stacked the deck against SAWS efforts to build a pipeline from the Colorado River to San Antonio." (Caputo, 6/21/09)
- Energy efficiency and other renewable energy sources use significantly less water than nuclear reactors.

For More Information on how to get involved, visit www.NukeFreeTexas.org

Dr. Lauren Ross's STP Water Report is available at: http://nukefreetexas.org/downloads/ross_report.pdf

New power-plant drain on rivers sparks debate, 6/21/09 Anton Caputo – Express-News
http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/New_power-plant_drain_on_rivers_sparks_debate.html