

WHITE STALLION RECEIVES CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT

On October 4, 2011, White Stallion Energy Center received a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and a water quality certification from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These actions reflect White Stallion's success in minimizing the potential environmental effects of its proposed power project in Matagorda County, Texas. That project will provide reliable and inexpensive baseload power to the Texas grid, while also diversifying the mix of fuels that power the State.

The USACE permitting process evaluated the White Stallion Energy Center's possible effects on natural and cultural resources in the area, including the Colorado River, wetlands, and migratory birds. USACE also evaluated navigation safety for commercial and private vessels. USACE consulted with other agencies, including TCEQ, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas General Land Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. A representative from each of these agencies toured the project site and provided comments to USACE. The general public and interested advocacy groups also provided comments to USACE. As concerns or questions were identified, White Stallion performed additional studies to address them. During the 24-month permitting review process, WSEC worked with USACE to refine the project's layout to reduce potential impacts. As a result of these adjustments, the total natural resource area affected for USACE review was reduced from 22 acres in the original plan, then to 8 acres, and eventually to one man-made livestock pond of less than one-tenth of an acre.

White Stallion started background natural and cultural resource investigations and field surveys for this project in 2009. No significant archaeological or historical sites were identified on the property. No threatened or endangered species that are listed as present in Matagorda County were identified on the property. White Stallion has prepared an avian protection plan to protect birds during the construction and operations of the power plant and transmission lines. White Stallion also performed field surveys of the Colorado River channel near the plant site to determine depths and obstructions that might be present for future barge operations. During the development process, White Stallion and its engineering team have continued to make adjustments as an ongoing effort to minimize impacts to the environment while maintaining compliance with air quality standards.