September 2, 2008

Mr. Edward E. Halpin  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION

Dear Mr. Halpin:

On August 5, 2008 the NRC staff completed its performance review of the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station for the first half of the calendar year 2008 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous twelve months. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security-Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through December 31, 2009. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at [http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html) (the Public Electronic Reading Room).
If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817-860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

Claude E. Johnson, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

Dockets: 50-498
50-499
Licenses: NPF-76
NPF-80

Enclosure: South Texas Project Inspection/ Activity Plan

cc w/Enclosure
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INPO (mortensengk@INPO.org)
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