

March 16, 2000

Mr. J. J. Sheppard, Vice President
Engineering & Technical Services
STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING
INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
(TAC NOS. MA8315 AND MA8316)

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

By your application dated January 26, 2000, and affidavit dated January 25, 2000, you submitted the South Texas Project (STP) Risk Significance Basis Document (RSBD) for the Standby Diesel Generator and Support Systems, and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

Public disclosure of information is likely to cause substantial harm to the competitive position of STPNOC [STP Nuclear Operating Company] in that it would enhance the ability of competitors to implement a similar process for commercial power reactors without incurring commensurate expenses. Public disclosure of the information would enable others to use the information to meet NRC requirements without purchasing the right to use the information. The development of the technology described in this information is the result of an extensive effort by STPNOC extending over a number of years at the cost of considerable station resources. In order for competitors to duplicate this information, similar technical programs would have to be executed and a significant manpower effort, having the requisite talent and experience, would have to be expended for developing and testing the methods presented in the RSBD. The information is therefore of considerable commercial value.

We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the STP RSBD for the Standby Diesel Generator and Support Systems, marked as proprietary, will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1278.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Nakoski, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

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/RA/

John A. Nakoski, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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South Texas, Units 1 & 2

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