



South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

South Texas Project
Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498 and STN 50-499
Acceptance of New Westinghouse Criteria for Weld Width in
Steam Generator Tube Laser Welded Sleeves

- References:
1. NRC letter from Janet L. Kennedy to William T. Cottle, September 4, 1997 (ST-AE-HL-94927), (TAC NOS. M95401 AND M95402)
 2. Westinghouse letter ST-WN-NOC-00-000021, "STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY UNITS 1 & 2 STEAM GENERATOR LASER WELDED SLEEVING," from J. S. Wyble to S. E. Thomas, March 20, 2000

In Reference 1, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved amendments 90 and 77 for South Texas Project (STP) Facility Operating Licenses NPF-76 and NPF-80, respectively, to allow installation of laser welded sleeves as an alternative to plugging defective steam generator tubes. Since that time, a generic issue concerning the acceptable width for the laser welds used to secure tube sleeves to their respective tubes has been resolved in discussions between Westinghouse and the NRC. Westinghouse has informed STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) by letter (Reference 2) of the resolution proposed by them and accepted by the NRC staff.

In the resolution, Westinghouse has modified its recommended inspection procedure for future welds to include a criterion that establishes the minimum average width of each weld in order to meet the requirements of ASME Section III Code for design-by-analysis. Any welds determined to have an average width of less than 21 mils will be evaluated by engineering to determine adequacy. Using this method, special considerations may provide for infrequently accepting welds with average widths of not less than 19 mils. STPNOC will implement the Westinghouse resolution.

Currently, STP Unit 1 Model E steam generators have been replaced by Model Δ94 steam generators, and the Technical Specifications have been amended such that the laser welded sleeve repair option no longer applies to Unit 1. Consequently, this repair option now applies only to the STP Unit 2 Model E steam generators, which are scheduled to be replaced in the fall of 2002.

ADD 1

There are no laser welded sleeves installed in the Unit 2 steam generators. Should STPNOC decide to install laser welded sleeves in the Unit 2 steam generators, these laser welded sleeves will be installed in conformance with the criteria established by Westinghouse with NRC staff concurrence and described in Reference 2, above.

Should questions arise, please contact Mr. Scott Head at (361) 972-7136, or me at (361) 972-7902.



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