

August 24, 2000

Mr. William T. Cottle  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
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 - TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION  
OF REVIEW OF RISK-INFORMED EXEMPTION REQUESTS FROM SPECIAL  
TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS (TAC NOS. MA6057 AND MA6058)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The purpose of this letter is to share with you our timeline for the completion of our review of your risk-informed exemption requests from the special treatment requirements of 10 CFR Parts 21, 50, and 100. During the June 20 - 21, 2000, meeting, your staff provided us with its thoughts on the timeline for completion of our actions regarding your requests. Your staff indicated that we should be able to make our decisions by the middle of January 2001. We have considered your comments and established our timeline for performing our review as outlined in the enclosure. As we discussed with your staff, most recently at the July 24 - 25, 2000, public meeting, we have concluded that we should be able to complete our review of your exemption requests by April 15, 2001. Meeting this date is linked to the ability of both of us to meet the interim milestones outlined in the enclosure. These interim milestones were shared with your staff during the July 2000 meeting.

You will note that some of the interim milestones include actions that you need to perform. The first such milestone is your formal response to our January 18, 2000, request for additional information (RAI) and a revised exemption request submittal. In order for us to move forward with your exemption requests, we requested at the July 2000 meeting that you respond to the January 18, 2000, RAI, and provide the staff with revised exemption requests. You were asked to base your formal response and revised submittal on the draft review guidelines we forwarded to you on July 19, 2000, telephone conferences on RAI questions, and the series of meetings we have held to date.

Based on subsequent discussions with your staff, we understand that you may need to slip the completion of this action from August 15, 2000, to August 31, 2000. This may introduce some delay in the completion of some of our future actions. However, we anticipate that working together, we should be able to minimize the delay in issuing our final decisions regarding your exemption requests. In order for us to minimize the delay, it is important for your revised submittal to be sufficiently detailed to allow us to prepare our draft safety evaluation. We have discussed the level of detail that we need with your staff at the meetings we have recently held. We anticipate that we should still be able to complete our reviews and

issue our decisions on your requests by April 15, 2001. Insufficient detail in your response, or delays in your ability to meet the dates for interim milestones, will have a direct impact on the completion date for the exemption requests.

Should you have comments or questions regarding the timeline, or the effect of the delay on the completion of our review, please contact Mr. John A. Nakoski of my staff at 301-415-1278.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

John A. Zwolinski, Director  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure: NRC Timeline for Exemption Review

cc w/encl: See next page

issue our decisions on your requests by April 15, 2001. Insufficient detail in your response, or delays in your ability to meet the dates for interim milestones, will have a direct impact on the completion date for the exemption requests.

Should you have comments or questions regarding the timeline, or the effect of the delay on the completion of our review, please contact Mr. John A. Nakoski of my staff at 301-415-1278.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

John A. Zwolinski, Director  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure: NRC Timeline for Exemption Review

cc w/encl: See next page

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**ACCESSION NO: ML003743937**

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| NAME   | JNakoski  | CJamerson | RGramm    | SRichards | SBlack  | JZwolinski |
| DATE   | 08/18/00  | 08/17/00  | 08/18/00  | 08/18/00  |         | 08/22/00   |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

South Texas, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. Cornelius F. O'Keefe  
Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P. O. Box 910  
Bay City, TX 77414

A. Ramirez/C. M. Canady  
City of Austin  
Electric Utility Department  
721 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78704

Mr. M. T. Hardt  
Mr. W. C. Gunst  
City Public Service Board  
P. O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, TX 78296

Mr. G. E. Vaughn/C. A. Johnson  
Central Power and Light Company  
P. O. Box 289  
Mail Code: N5012  
Wadsworth, TX 74483

INPO  
Records Center  
700 Galleria Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30339-3064

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom  
Houston Lighting & Power Co.  
P. O. Box 1700  
Houston, TX 77251

Judge, Matagorda County  
Matagorda County Courthouse  
1700 Seventh Street  
Bay City, TX 77414

A. H. Gutterman, Esq.  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius  
1800 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Mr. J. J. Sheppard, Vice President  
Engineering & Technical Services  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

S. M. Head, Supervisor, Licensing  
Quality & Licensing Department  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Office of the Governor  
ATTN: John Howard, Director  
Environmental and Natural  
Resources Policy  
P. O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Jon C. Wood  
Matthews & Branscomb  
One Alamo Center  
106 S. St. Mary's Street, Suite 700  
San Antonio, TX 78205-3692

Arthur C. Tate, Director  
Division of Compliance & Inspection  
Bureau of Radiation Control  
Texas Department of Health  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756

Jim Calloway  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Electric Industry Analysis  
P. O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

February 2000

## NRC TIMELINE FOR EXEMPTION REVIEW

| <b>MILESTONE</b>   | <b>TARGET DATE</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Develop Staff Guidelines                                    | 7/14/00            |
| 2. STP Provides Revised Exemption Requests                     | 8/15/00*           |
| 3. Issue Draft Safety Evaluation                               | 11/01/00           |
| 4. ACRS Briefing on Draft Safety Evaluation                    | 12/01/00**         |
| 5. STP Provides Response to Draft Safety Evaluation            | 12/31/00           |
| 6. Resolve Open Items from Draft Safety Evaluation             | 2/15/01            |
| 7. Final Safety Evaluation Completed                           | 3/15/01            |
| 8. Commission Briefing on Staff Findings on Exemption Requests | 3/30/01**          |
| 9. Issue Final Safety Evaluation and Exemption Decisions       | 4/15/01            |

\* This date is challenged by issues raised during our review of STPNOC's draft RAI responses and the development of our review guidelines. STPNOC expects to complete this action by no later than 9/15/00.

\*\* A firm date for this milestone has not been scheduled, but it is planned to occur near this date.

Enclosure