



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

January 18, 2001

William T. Cottle, President and
Chief Executive Officer
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

**SUBJECT: STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY - NRC INITIAL OPERATOR
LICENSING EXAMINATIONS 50-498/01-301; 50-499/01-301**

In a meeting in Region IV on January 11, 2001, between your Messrs. Michael DeFrees and Kenneth Struble and our Howard Bundy and Alfred Sanchez and myself, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at South Texas Project during the week of September 17, 2001.

As agreed during this meeting, your staff will prepare the operating test and NRC will prepare the written examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 8 (or later revision, if appropriate) of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary for the operating test before the examinations are administered during onsite review the week of September 3, 2001. Also, at this time your staff will be given the opportunity to review the written examinations.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outlines and reference materials requested at the meeting by April 16, 2001. The operating tests will be due by July 2, 2001. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required tests and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Messrs. DeFrees and Struble have been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Howard Bundy at 817.860.8172, or John Pellet at 817.860.8159.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John L. Pellet, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-498; 50-499
License No.: NPF-76; NPF-80

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SRE:OB	C:OB			
HBundy/lmb	JLPellet			
/RA/	/RA/			
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