

July 12, 2001

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, RE: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02, "LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" (TAC NOS. MA5846 AND MA5847)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02 to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the generic letter was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses on the implementation of the actions requested in this generic letter.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) plants in compliance with their TS that test charcoal samples in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (2) plants in compliance with their TS that test charcoal samples in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989
- (3) plants not in compliance with their TS that test charcoal samples in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) plants not in compliance with their TS that test charcoal samples in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

In response to GL 99-02, you provided a letter dated November 29, 1999, for South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2. Associated with your response was a request, dated November 18, 1999, which contained a request for a license amendment to change your TS to provide for testing as described in the GL. By letter dated November 22, 2000, you provided a response to the staff's request for additional information. The NRC staff has reviewed your letters dated November 18 and 29, 1999, and November 22, 2000, and has concluded that you have provided the requested information and an acceptable TS change request in accordance with the GL. The test will be to the acceptance criterion that is derived from applying a safety factor of 5 to the charcoal filter efficiency assumed in the STP design-basis dose analysis. The TS change was issued on May 1, 2001 (see ADAMS Accession No. ML011220591). Therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your facilities and consider TAC Nos. MA5846 and MA5847 closed. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Nakoski, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
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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