August 13, 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 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS ON POSITIVE REACTIVITY ADDITIONS (TAC NOS. MB0930 AND MB0931)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 128 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 and Amendment No. 117 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) and authorize revision of the Technical Requirements Manual (TRM) in response to your application dated December 20, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated February 1 and 28, and June 12, 2001.

The amendments revise the TS requirements and authorize revision of the TRM provisions applicable when actions direct suspension of operations involving positive reactivity changes. The changes remove the requirement not to make positive reactivity changes during certain plant conditions, and limit the reactivity changes that are allowed to those that will continue to assure appropriate reactivity limits are met. Related changes to the Bases are also made. In addition, an administrative TS change is made to remove a footnote regarding an alternate onsite emergency power source, which is no longer applicable.

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 128 to NPF-76
2. Amendment No. 117 to NPF-80
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

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OFFICE	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-D/LA	PDIV-1/PM	TSB/(A)BC	OGC	PDIV-1/SC
NAME	TAlexion	MMcAllister	MThadani	RDennig*	RWeisman	RGramm
DATE	7/25/01	7/25/01	7/26/01	06/26/01	08 Aug 2001	8/13/01

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STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 128
License No. NPF-76

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by STP Nuclear Operating Company* acting on behalf of itself and for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio (CPS), Central Power and Light Company (CPL), and the City of Austin, Texas (COA) (the licensees), dated December 20, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated February 1 and 28, and June 12, 2001, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

---

*STP Nuclear Operating Company is authorized to act for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Central Power and Light Company, and the City of Austin, Texas, and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

2. Accordingly, by Amendment No. 128, the Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 is amended to authorize revision of the Technical Requirements Manual (TRM) provisions applicable when actions direct suspension of operations involving positive reactivity additions, as set forth in the application for amendment by STP Nuclear Operating Company dated December 20, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated February 1 and 28, and June 12, 2001, and evaluated in the staff's safety evaluation enclosed with this amendment.

3. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   2. Technical Specifications

      The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 128, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

4. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 13, 2001

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 117
License No. NPF-80

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:

   A. The application for amendment by STP Nuclear Operating Company* acting on behalf of itself and for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio (CPS), Central Power and Light Company (CPL), and the City of Austin, Texas (COA) (the licensees), dated December 20, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated February 1 and 28, and June 12, 2001, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;

   B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;

   C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;

   D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

   E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

---

*STP Nuclear Operating Company is authorized to act for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Central Power and Light Company, and the City of Austin, Texas, and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

2. Accordingly, by Amendment No. 117, the Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 is amended to authorize revision of the Technical Requirements Manual (TRM) provisions applicable when actions direct suspension of operations involving positive reactivity additions, as set forth in the application for amendment by STP Nuclear Operating Company dated December 20, 2000, as supplemented by letters dated February 1 and 28, and June 12, 2001, and evaluated in the staff's safety evaluation enclosed with this amendment.

3. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 is hereby amended to read as follows:

   2. Technical Specifications

      The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 117, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

4. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: August 13, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 128 AND 117

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-76 AND NPF-80

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

REMOVE	INSERT
3/4 3-2	3/4 3-2
3/4 3-7	3/4 3-7
3/4 4-2	3/4 4-2
3/4 4-3	3/4 4-3
3/4 4-5	3/4 4-5
3/4 4-6	3/4 4-6
3/4 7-16	3/4 7-16
3/4 8-9	3/4 8-9
3/4 8-9a	3/4 8-9a
3/4 8-13	3/4 8-13
3/4 8-16	3/4 8-16
3/4 9-2	3/4 9-2
3/4 9-8	3/4 9-8
3/4 9-9	3/4 9-9
B 3/4 3-1	B 3/4 3-1
B 3/4 4-1	B 3/4 4-1
---	B 3/4 4-1a
B 3/4 7-4	B 3/4 7-4
B 3/4 7-5	B 3/4 7-5
---	B 3/4 7-5a
B 3/4 8-19	B 3/4 8-19
B 3/4 8-20	B 3/4 8-20
B 3/4 9-1	B 3/4 9-1
---	B 3/4 9-1a
B 3/4 9-3	B 3/4 9-3
---	B 3/4 9-3a

Overleaf pages provided to maintain document completeness. There are no changes on these pages. Also, the Bases pages are provided for completeness, but they are not part of these technical specification amendments.

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRC)

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 128 AND 117 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-76 AND NPF-80

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, ET AL.

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated December 20, 2000 (Reference 1), as supplemented by letters dated February 1 and 28, and June 12, 2001 (References 2, 3, and 4), STP Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested changes to the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs) and Technical Requirements Manual (TRM). The proposed changes would revise the TS requirements and authorize revision of the TRM provisions applicable when actions direct suspension of operations involving positive reactivity changes. The proposed changes would remove the requirement not to make positive reactivity changes during certain plant conditions, and would limit the reactivity changes that are allowed to those that will continue to assure appropriate reactivity limits are met. Related changes to the Bases were also proposed. In addition, an administrative TS change was proposed to remove a footnote regarding an alternate onsite emergency power source, which is no longer applicable.

On February 7, 2001, the NRC staff published notice of the proposed action in the *Federal Register*, including a proposed no significant hazards consideration determination (66 FR 9387). The February 1 and 28, and June 12, 2001, supplemental letters provided clarifying information that did not change the scope of the original *Federal Register* notice or the proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The proposed amendment would revise 13 specific TSs relating to positive reactivity additions while in operational modes other than Mode 1. The proposed changes would clarify the TSs involving positive reactivity additions. The proposed changes would allow small, controlled, safe insertions of positive reactivity. Additionally, the licensee requested NRC review of 5 specific changes to the TRM relating to positive reactivity additions while the reactor is shut down.

The proposed 13 changes are from the Technical Specification Task Force (TSTF) process developed by the industry and the NRC. The proposed change conforms closely to TSTF-286, Revision 2. TSTF-286, Revision 2, provides a model for revising actions that state, “Suspend operations involving positive reactivity additions,” and which limit the introduction, into the

reactor coolant system (RCS), of reactivity more positive than that required to meet the required shutdown margin (SDM) or the refueling boron concentration, as applicable. Similar positive reactivity addition changes to TSs were approved by the NRC for Donald C. Cook, Units 1 and 2, by letter dated October 21, 1999 (Reference 6), and San Onofre, Units 2 and 3, by letter dated December 20, 2000 (Reference 7).

3.0 EVALUATION

The change in TSTF-286 is to revise: 1) actions that require "Suspend operations involving positive reactivity additions," 2) various notes precluding reduction in boron concentration, and 3) the RCS isolated loop startup limit such that the isolated loop will be at a boron concentration greater than or equal to the operating loop(s). A TS revision following the TSTF-286 model would limit the introduction into the RCS of reactivity more positive than that required to meet the required SDM or refueling boron concentrations, as applicable. Additionally, the remaining actions that require suspension of positive reactivity changes would have a Bases addition to clarify that the intent is a "net" positive reactivity operation.

The justification given in TSTF-286 is that the change provides the flexibility necessary to provide for continued safe reactor operations, while also limiting any potential for excess positive reactivity addition. The actions that preclude positive reactivity changes and/or reduction in boron concentration are ensuring 1) no power increases, or 2) continued margin to core criticality operations. During conditions in which these actions may be required, various unit operations may be necessary. For example, RCS inventory must be maintained, and RCS temperature must be controlled. These activities may involve addition to the RCS of cooler water and may involve inventory makeup from sources that are at boron concentrations less than RCS concentration. These activities should not be precluded if the worst-case overall effect on the core would still assure that SDM is maintained.

In its application, the licensee stated the same justification for South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, as that provided above. The licensee proposed changes to the TSs that are similar to those given in the TSTF, with a few plant-specific exceptions due to the fact that the licensee has not converted to the improved standard TSs for South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2.

TS 3.3.1, Table 3.3-1, Action 4, currently prohibits positive reactivity additions. This TS would be modified to allow plant control operations that may result in limited reactivity additions (e.g., temperature or boron fluctuations associated with RCS inventory management or temperature control), provided that they are accounted for in the calculated SDM. This would maintain the required SDM and limit any potential reactivity additions to acceptable levels. Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed changes acceptable. In addition, the proposed change is consistent with the wording in TSTF-286, Revision 2, for Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.3.1.

TS 3.4.1.2, TS 3.4.1.3, TS 3.4.1.4.1, and TS 3.4.1.4.2 currently prohibit operations that would cause reduction of the RCS boron concentration. These TSs would be revised to prohibit operations that would cause the introduction into the RCS of coolant with boron concentration less than that which would meet SDM requirements. The revision would allow the introduction into the RCS of coolant at a lower boron concentration than the RCS, provided the lower concentration is greater than the concentration required to preserve the required SDM. Additions of makeup water to the RCS are routinely required. If the makeup water is at a lower

boron concentration than the RCS, it would result in a positive reactivity addition. In addition, water in the refueling water storage tank (RWST) of the same boron concentration as the RCS may appear to be at a slightly lower boron concentration due to chemistry sampling uncertainties. However, makeup to the RCS under these circumstances is a safe operation because the makeup boron concentration is greater than the concentration required to preserve the required SDM. Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed changes acceptable. In addition, the proposed changes to TS 3.4.1.2, TS 3.4.1.3, TS 3.4.1.4.1 and TS 3.4.1.4.2 are consistent with the changes in TSTF-286, Revision 2.

The NRC staff notes that in reconciled page 3/4 4-2 that was provided by the licensee, which contains TS 3.4.1.2, the word "boron" is misspelled in the footnote. However, it is spelled correctly in the markup of page 3/4 4-2 that was provided by the licensee. Therefore, the NRC staff is issuing page 3/4 4-2 with the correct spelling of "boron."

TS 3.7.7 currently prohibits positive reactivity changes to the reactor while in Modes 5 and 6, Actions a and b. Since temperature changes in the RCS impose reactivity changes by means of the moderator temperature coefficient (MTC), this TS would be revised to allow plant temperature changes because the temperature change is accounted for in the calculated SDM. Small changes in RCS temperature are unavoidable and because the required SDM is maintained during these changes, any positive reactivity additions will be limited to acceptable levels. This change was not incorporated in TSTF-286, Revision 2, since NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications, Westinghouse Plants," does not have an Action Statement that requires the suspension of all operations involving positive reactivity changes. (NUREG-1431, TS 3.7.10, Control Room Emergency Filtration System, requires the suspension of movement of [recently] irradiated fuel assemblies.) This is a plant-specific change. In view of the above, the NRC staff finds the proposed change acceptable.

TS 3.8.1.2, TS 3.8.1.3, TS 3.8.2.2, TS 3.8.3.2, and TS 3.9.2 currently require suspension of operations involving positive reactivity changes under certain conditions. These TSs would be modified to suspend operations involving positive reactivity additions only if they could result in loss of required SDM or boron concentration. By maintaining SDM or required boron concentration, small, controlled, safe insertions of positive reactivity would be allowed. Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed changes acceptable. In addition, the proposed changes to TS 3.8.1.2, TS 3.8.1.3, TS 3.8.2.2, TS 3.8.3.2, and TS 3.9.2 are the same as those in TSTF-286, Revision 2.

TS 3.9.8.1 and TS 3.9.8.2 currently prohibit operations that would cause reduction of the RCS boron concentration. These TSs would be revised to prohibit operations that would cause the introduction into the RCS of coolant with boron concentration less than required to meet the boron concentration of LCO 3.9.1. Additions of makeup water to the RCS are routinely required. If the makeup water is at a lower boron concentration than the RCS, it would result in a positive reactivity addition. In addition, water in the RWST of the same boron concentration as the RCS may appear to be at a slightly lower boron concentration due to chemistry sampling uncertainties. However, makeup to the RCS under these circumstances is a safe operation because the makeup boron concentration is greater than the concentration required to maintain the refueling boron concentration defined in LCO 3.9.1. Therefore, the NRC staff finds the proposed changes acceptable. In addition, the proposed changes to TS 3.9.8.1 and TS 3.9.8.2 are consistent with the changes in TSTF-286, Revision 2.

TRM Sections 3.1.2.1, 3.1.2.3, 3.1.2.5, 3.1.2.7, and 3.4.2.1 currently prohibits all operations involving positive reactivity changes while the reactor is shut down. Since temperature changes in the RCS impose reactivity changes by means of the MTC, the TRM sections discussed above would be revised to allow plant temperature changes because the temperature change is accounted for in the calculated SDM. Small changes in RCS temperature are unavoidable and because the required SDM is maintained during these changes, any positive reactivity additions will be limited to acceptable levels.

These TRM changes were not incorporated in TSTF-286, Revision 2, since NUREG-1431 does not have an LCO for Boration Systems - Shutdown, Charging Pumps - Shutdown, Borated Water Sources - Shutdown, Boron Injection System - Shutdown, and Safety Valves Shutdown. These are plant specific changes. The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed changes to the TRM and for the reasons stated above, finds them acceptable.

The licensee also proposed an administrative change to TS 3.8.1.2. The administrative change consists of removing footnote 2 from TS 3.8.1.2. Footnote 2 allowed an alternate onsite emergency power source to be substituted for one of the required diesels for 21 consecutive days for 1RE05 and 2RE04 refueling outages only. These refueling outages have been completed and the footnote is no longer meaningful. Accordingly, the NRC staff finds the removal of footnote 2 of TS 3.8.1.2 acceptable.

By letter dated June 12, 2001, the licensee requested an additional plant-specific change regarding reactivity additions. Specifically, the licensee proposed to modify TS 3.3.1, Table 3.3-1, Reactor Trip System Instrumentation, by adding Action 5 and associated bases for the Extended Range Neutron Flux Instrumentation. The Extended Range Neutron Flux Instrumentation at South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, does not serve a reactor trip function. It provides neutron flux monitoring and an alarm function in Modes 3, 4, and 5. NUREG-1431 does not address Extended Range Neutron Flux Instrumentation.

The proposed action states:

> ACTION 5 - With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the Minimum Channels OPERABLE requirement, suspend all operations involving positive reactivity changes. Plant temperature changes or boron dilution is allowed provided the change is accounted for in the calculated SHUTDOWN MARGIN.

The licensee stated that the proposed action is appropriate in Modes 3, 4, and 5 since the RCS boron concentration may be as high as 2800 - 3000 ppm during preparation for and return from refueling operations. Boron concentrations at these high refueling values are unique to South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2. South Texas Project uses a rapid refueling configuration design where all control rods are removed from the reactor core with the upper internals and reactor head assembly during refueling operations. Introduction of RCS temperature changes, including temperature increases when operating with a positive moderator temperature coefficient, and boron dilution are permitted to allow flexibility for reactor operations personnel in routine plant control operations, because they are accounted for in the calculated SDM. The NRC staff has reviewed the proposed Action 5 and the associated bases. As stated above, the NRC staff finds that the proposed Action 5 of Table 3.3-1 ensures an acceptable margin to maintaining subcritical operation and therefore is acceptable.

The NRC staff notes that related Bases changes are included for issuance with these amendments. In addition, there is an unrelated Bases change made on page B 3/4 7-4 to restore a 92-day surveillance interval for the control room filtration system, that had previously been accepted by the NRC in a letter dated May 8, 2000, that was inadvertently changed (in the Bases) to a 31-day surveillance in Amendments 125 and 113, issued on September 26, 2000.

4.0 SUMMARY

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's submittal and supporting documentation. Based on the considerations discussed above, the NRC staff has concluded that the proposed revisions to 13 specific TSs and 5 specific changes in the TRM are acceptable.

5.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Texas State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts and no significant change in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (66 FR 9387, dated February 7, 2001). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

8.0 REFERENCES

1. Sheppard, J. J., STP Nuclear Operating Company, to USNRC, "Proposed Amendment to South Texas Project Technical Specifications to Modify Requirements Applicable When Actions Require No Positive Reactivity Additions," December 20, 2000.

2. Sheppard, J. J., STP Nuclear Operating Company, to USNRC, "Supplement To: Proposed Amendment to South Texas Project Technical Specifications to Modify Requirements Applicable When Actions Require No Positive Reactivity Additions," February 1, 2001.

3. Sheppard, J. J., STP Nuclear Operating Company, to USNRC, "Second Supplement To: Proposed Amendment to South Texas Project Technical Specifications to Modify Requirements Applicable When Actions Require No Positive Reactivity Additions," February 28, 2001.

4. Cloninger, T. H., STP Nuclear Operating Company, to USNRC, "Supplement To: Proposed Amendment to South Texas Project Technical Specifications to Modify Requirements Applicable When Actions Require No Positive Reactivity Additions," June 12, 2001

5. Beckner, W. D., USNRC, to J. Davis, Nuclear Energy Institute, July 6, 2000.

6. Stang, J. F., USNRC, to R. P. Powers, Indiana Michigan Power Company, "Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2- Issuance of Amendments Re Positive Reactivity Changes (TAC NOS. MA5894 and MA5895)," October 21, 1999.

7. Raghavan, L., USNRC, to H. B. Ray, Southern California Edison Company, "San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 AND 3 - Issuance of Amendments RE: Positive Reactivity Additions When Shutdown (TAC NOS. MB0057 AND MB0058)," December 20, 2000.

Principal Contributor: K. Kavanagh

Date: August 13, 2001

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. C. A. Johnson/R. P. Powers
AEP - Central Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 289
Mail Code: N5022
Wadsworth, TX 77483

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, Manager, Licensing
Nuclear Quality & Licensing Department
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5014
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
112 East Pecan, Suite 1100
San Antonio, TX 78205

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