



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

October 18, 2001

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

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - NRC  
EXAMINATION REPORT 50-498/01-301; 50-499/01-301

Dear Mr. Cottle:

On September 21, 2001, the NRC completed initial operator licensing examinations at South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2. The enclosed report documents the examination findings, which were discussed on September 21, 2001, with Florence Mangan and other members of your staff.

The examinations included an evaluation of six applicants for reactor operator licenses and six applicants for senior operator licenses. We determined that all applicants satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55, and the appropriate licenses have been issued.

No findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Dockets: 50-498; 50-499  
Licenses: NPF-76; NPF-80

Enclosure:  
NRC Inspection Report  
50-498/01-301; 50-499/01-301

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV

Dockets: 50-498; 50-499  
Licenses: NPF-76; NPF-80  
Report No.: 50-498/01-301; 50-499/01-301  
Licensee: STP Nuclear Operating Company  
Facility: South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2  
Location: FM 521 - 8 miles west of Wadsworth  
Wadsworth, Texas  
Dates: September 21, 2001  
Chief Examiner: Howard F. Bundy, Senior Operations Engineer  
Examiners: Stephen L. McCrory, Senior Operations Engineer  
Alfred A. Sanchez, Operations Engineer  
Greg E. Werner, Operations Engineer  
Approved By: Anthony T. Gody  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000498/01-301; 05000499/01-301 on 09/17-21/01, South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, operator licensing examinations.

NRC examiners evaluated the competency of six applicants for reactor operator licenses and six applicants for senior operator licenses at the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2. The NRC developed the written examinations and the licensee developed the operating examinations using NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 8, Supplement 1. Licensee proctors administered the written examinations to all applicants on September 14, 2001, in accordance with instructions provided by the chief examiner. The NRC examiners administered the operating tests on September 17-21, 2001.

**Cornerstone: Other**

No findings of significance were identified.

## Report Details

### 4. OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### 4OA4 Initial License Examinations

##### .1 Operator Knowledge and Performance

###### a. Examination Scope

The NRC examination team administered the operating examinations to the 12 applicants on September 17-21, 2001. Most of the applicants participated in two dynamic simulator scenarios, a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of ten system tasks, and an administrative test consisting of five administrative tasks. The two applicants for instant senior operator licenses participated in three scenarios and three applicants for upgrading their reactor operator to senior operator licenses performed a control room and facilities walkthrough test consisting of only five system tasks.

On September 14, 2001, the licensee proctored the administration of the written examinations to all 12 applicants and forwarded the results to the NRC examiners for grading.

###### b. Findings

All applicants passed all parts of the examinations. For the written examinations, the average score for reactor operator applicants was 87.3 percent, and the average score for senior operator applicants was 93.7 percent. The reactor operator scores ranged from 82 to 92 percent, and the senior operator scores ranged from 90 to 98 percent.

The examiners conducted a performance analysis for the written examinations with emphasis on 9 questions missed by half or more of the applicable applicants. The examiners concluded that all questions were valid and that there were no commonalities in the knowledge deficiencies. The text of the examination questions may be accessed in the ADAMS system as noted in the attachment.

##### .2 Initial Licensing Examination Development

The NRC examiners developed the written examinations and the licensee developed the operating examinations in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1. Licensee facility training and operations staff involved in examination development were on a security agreement.

##### .2.1 Operating Examination Outline and Examination Package

###### a. Examination Scope

The facility licensee submitted the operating examination outlines on April 3, 2001. An examiner reviewed the submittal against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8,

and the chief examiner forwarded minor comments to the licensee on April 10, 2001. The facility licensee submitted the draft examination package on June 26, 2001. Examiners reviewed the draft submittals against the requirements of NUREG-1021, Revision 8, Supplement 1 and provided comments to the licensee on July 2, 2001. The chief examiner conducted an onsite validation of the examinations and provided further comments during the week of September 3, 2001. The licensee satisfactorily completed comment resolution during the onsite validation week.

b. Findings

The chief examiner approved the initial examination outline with minor comments and advised the licensee to proceed with the operating examination development.

The chief examiner determined that the operating examinations initially submitted by the licensee were within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination and were satisfactory.

No findings of significance were identified.

.2.2 Simulation Facility Performance

a. Scope

The examination team observed simulator performance with regard to plant fidelity during the examination validation and administration.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

.2.3 Examination Security

a. Scope

The examiners reviewed examination security both during the onsite preparation and examination administration weeks with respect to NUREG-1021 requirements. Written plans for simulator security and applicant control were reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

4OA5 Management Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

The examination team presented the examination results to Ms. Florence Mangan, Vice President, Business Services, and other members of the licensee's management staff at the conclusion of the examinations on September 21, 2000. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

The licensee did not identify as proprietary any information or materials examined during the examination.

**ATTACHMENT**

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

T. Bowman, Unit 1 Operations Division Manager  
J. Calvert, Operations Training Division Manager  
A. Culver, Instructor, Licensed Operator Training  
M. DeFrees, Supervisor, Licensed Operator Training  
E. Halpin, Operations Department Manager  
F. Mangan, Vice President, Business Services  
J. Phelps, Operations Division Manager  
S. Sieben, Instructor, Licensed Operator Training  
K. Struble, Instructor, Licensed Operator Training

NRC

N. O'Keefe, Senior Resident Inspector

**ADAMS DOCUMENTS REFERENCED**

Accession No.: ML 012870001 - Written examination for reactor and senior reactor operators