

December 11, 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
TO DELETE SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENT (SR) 4.4.6.2.2.e OF
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) 3/4.4.6.2. (TAC NOS. MB1414 AND
MB1422)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 134 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 and Amendment No. 123 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments consist of deleting surveillance requirement (SR) 4.4.6.2.2.e of South Texas Project Technical Specification (TS) Section 3/4.4.6.2, in response to your application dated February 12, 2001.

The amendments revise the South Texas Project TS by deleting SR 4.4.6.2.2.e, which refers to the 1983 Edition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code), Section XI, paragraph IWV-3427(b) as a requirement for demonstrating that each Reactor Coolant System Pressure Isolation Valve specified in TS Table 3.4-1 is operable. IWV-3427(b) of Section XI specifies requirements for use of valve leak test data to determine the need for increased test frequency as well as the need for repair or replacement of affected valves. The current applicable code ASME OMa-1988 does not specify these requirements.

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

Sincerely,
/RA/

Girija S. Shukla, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 134 to NPF-76
2. Amendment No. 123 to NPF-80
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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ACCESSION NO.: ML013180547

*No legal objection

OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-D/LA	OGC*	PDIV-1/SC
NAME	GShukla	MThadani	MMcAllister	RHoefling	RGramm
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STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 134
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 February 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, 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. 134 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. 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: December 11, 2001

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 123
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 February 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, 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. 123 , and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. 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: December 11, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 134 AND 123

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

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains marginal line indicating the areas of change.

REMOVE

3/4 4-21

INSERT

3/4 4-21

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 134 AND 123 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 February 12, 2001, STP Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested changes to the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS). The proposed changes would delete surveillance requirement (SR) 4.4.6.2.2.e of South Texas Project TS Section 3/4.4.6.2.

SR 4.4.6.2.2.e, refers to the 1983 Edition of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code), Section XI, paragraph IWV-3427(b) as a requirement for demonstrating that each Reactor Coolant System Pressure Isolation Valve specified in TS Table 3.4-1 is operable. IWV-3427(b) of Section XI specifies requirements for use of valve leak test data to determine the need for increased test frequency as well as the need for repair or replacement of affected valves. The incorporation of SR 4.4.6.2.2.e into the TS at South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 was to reflect the inservice test (IST) requirements of the initial 10-year program. The current applicable code ASME OMa-1988 does not specify these requirements.

2.0 EVALUATION

The 1983 Edition of ASME Code, Section XI was the applicable Code of record for the initial 10-year IST program at South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2. The initial 10-year interval for inservice testing at South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 began on August 25, 1988 and June 19, 1989, and ended on August 24, 1998, and June 18, 1999, respectively. In a letter dated February 1, 1999, the licensee proposed to defer its second 10-year interval for IST to approximately the end of November 2001, and this proposal was approved by NRC in a safety evaluation dated March 15, 1999. For the second 10-year interval, the licensee (in the same letter dated February 1, 1999) proposed to implement a risk-informed IST program based on the 1987 edition with 1988 addenda to OM standards OM-6 and OM-10 that were referenced in the 1989 ASME Code, Section XI.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(ii), the 1995 Edition including the 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code for the Operation and Maintenance of Nuclear Power Plants (1996 OM Code) must be used to develop the second 10-year IST program at STP, Units 1 and 2, because ISTs must

comply with the requirements of the latest edition and addenda of the Code incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) 12 months prior to the start of the 120-month interval, subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein. However, in a letter dated March 15, 1999, NRC approved the use of the 1989 ASME Code, Section XI for the second 10-year interval IST program at South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2.

Nevertheless, a review of the ASME Code indicates that the leakage trending requirements of IWV-3427(b) was removed from the 1989 ASME Code, Section XI as well as from the 1996 OM Code. In both the 1989 ASME Code, Section XI and the 1996 OM Code, only the leakage rate measurements against a permissible rate will continue to be required. As the second 10-year interval begins on December 1, 2001 or earlier, deletion of the SR 4.4.6.2.2.e from the TS for South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 will be consistent with 1996 OM Code requirements as well as the current requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a.

Therefore, the staff concludes that the proposed TS amendments to delete the SR 4.4.6.2.2.e are acceptable because they meet the current IST requirements as well as the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a, and continue to provide an acceptable level of quality and safety for affected PIVs. Because the licensee did not request a similar change to its IST program, the leakage trending requirements contained in the current IST program must remain effective until the end of the initial 10-year interval.

3.0 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.

4.0 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 and change surveillance requirements. 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 (10 CFR 51.22(c)(9)). 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.

5.0 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.

Principal Contributor: John Huang

Date: December 11, 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