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

November 18, 1998

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - AMENDMENT NOS. 98 AND 85 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-76 AND NPF-80 (TAC NOS. MA2502 AND MA2503)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment Nos. 98 and 85 to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 (STP). The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TS) in response to your application dated July 6, 1998.

The amendments relocate the TS 5.4 requirements for Reactor Coolant System Design Features to the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report, which already contains the information.

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,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosures:
1. Amendment No. 98 to NPF-76
2. Amendment No. 85 to NPF-80
3. Safety Evaluation

1/1

DFO1

cc w/encls: See next page

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MGamberoni	Adensam (EGA1)	THarris (TLH3)	

Document Name: STPA2502.AMD *See previous concurrence

OFC	PM/PD4-1	PM/PD4-1	LA/PD4-1	TSB*	OGC*	D/PD4-1
NAME	MGamberoni/vw	TAlexion	CHawes	BBeckner	MYoung	JHannon
DATE	11/17/98	11/17/98	11/17/98	10/19/98	11/9/98	11/17/98
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OP-1

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 18, 1998

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cc w/encls: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 98
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 City of Austin, Texas (COA) (the licensees), dated July 6, 1998, 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 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. 98, 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.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance, to be implemented within 30 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Thomas W. Alexion

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: November 18, 1998

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 85
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 City of Austin, Texas (COA) (the licensees), dated July 6, 1998, 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 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. 85 , 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.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance, to be implemented within 30 days of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Thomas W. Alexion

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: November 18, 1998

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 98 AND 85

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

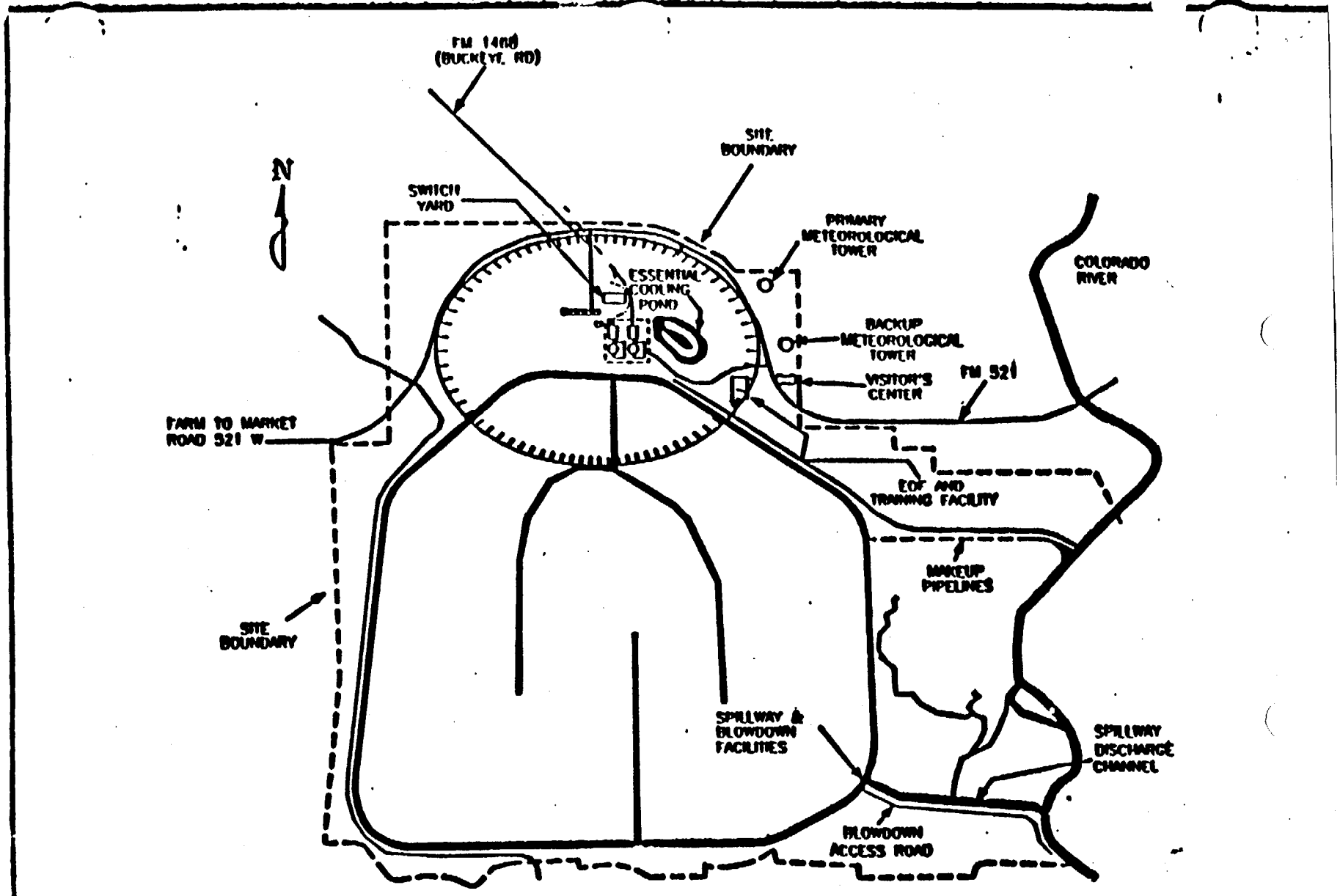
DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached pages. The revised pages are identified by Amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change. The corresponding overleaf pages are also provided to maintain document completeness.

REMOVE	INSERT
xvii	xvii
5-6	5-6

INDEX

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS



♦ The UNRESTRICTED AREA consists of the area beyond the SITE BOUNDAR

FIGURE 5.1-4
UNRESTRICTED AREA♦ AND SITE BOUNDARY FOR RADIOACTIVE LIQUID EFFLUENTS

5.3 REACTOR CORE

FUEL ASSEMBLIES

5.3.1 The reactor core shall contain 193 fuel assemblies. Each fuel assembly shall consist of a matrix of zircaloy or ZIRLO clad fuel rods with an initial composition of natural or slightly enriched uranium dioxide as fuel material. Limited substitutions of zirconium alloy, ZIRLO or stainless steel filler rods for fuel rods, in accordance with NRC-approved applications of fuel rod configurations, may be used. Fuel assemblies shall be limited to those fuel designs that have been analyzed with applicable NRC staff-approved codes and methods, and shown by tests or analyses to comply with all fuel safety design bases. A limited number of lead test assemblies that have not completed representative testing may be placed in non-limiting core regions.

CONTROL ROD ASSEMBLIES

5.3.2 The core shall contain 57 full-length control rod assemblies. The full-length control rod assemblies shall contain a nominal 158.9 inches of absorber material. The absorber material within each assembly shall be silver-indium-cadmium or hafnium. Mixtures of hafnium and silver-indium-cadmium are not permitted within a bank. All control rods shall be clad with stainless steel tubing.

5.4 (NOT USED)

5.5 METEOROLOGICAL TOWER LOCATION

5.5.1 The meteorological towers shall be located as shown on Figure 5.1-1.

5.6 FUEL STORAGE

5.6.1 CRITICALITY

5.6.1.1 The spent fuel storage racks are designed and shall be maintained

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 98 AND 85 TO

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

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated July 6, 1998, STP Nuclear Operating Company, et.al., (the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) (Appendix A to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80) for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 (STP). The proposed changes would relocate TS 5.4 requirements for Reactor Coolant System Design Features to the STP Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) (i.e., delete TS information that is currently in the UFSAR).

2.0 BACKGROUND

Section 182a of the Atomic Energy Act (the "Act") requires that applicants for nuclear power plant operation licenses state TSs and that these TSs be included as a part of the license. The Commission's regulatory requirements related to the content of TSs are set forth in 10 CFR 50.36. That regulation requires that the TSs include items in five specific categories, including (1) safety limits, limiting safety system settings and limiting control settings; (2) limiting conditions for operation; (3) surveillance requirements; (4) design features; and (5) administrative controls and states also that the Commission may include additional TSs as it finds to be appropriate. However, the regulation does not specify the particular TSs to be included in a plant's license.

The Commission has provided guidance for the contents of TS limiting conditions for operation in its "Final Policy Statement on Technical Specifications Improvements for Nuclear Power Reactors" (Final Policy Statement"), 58 FR 39132 (July 22, 1993), which was codified in 10 CFR 50.36(c)(2)(ii). The four criteria to be used in determining whether a particular matter is required to be included in the TS limiting conditions for operation, are as follows: (1) installed instrumentation that is used to detect, and indicate in the control room, a significant abnormal degradation of the reactor coolant pressure boundary; (2) a process variable, design feature, or operating restriction that is an initial condition of a design basis accident or transient analysis that either assumes the failure of or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier; (3) a structure, system, or component that is part of the primary success path and which functions or actuates to mitigate a design basis accident or transient that either assumes

the failure of or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier; or (4) a structure, system, or component which operating experience or probabilistic safety assessment has shown to be significant to public health and safety.

10 CFR 50.36(c)(4) states that the design features to be included are those features of the facility such as materials of construction and geometric arrangements, which, if altered or modified, would have a significant effect on safety and are not covered in 10 CFR 50.36(c)(1), (2) and (3).

3.0 EVALUATION

The existing TS 5.4 includes a description of the design pressure, temperature and volume of the Reactor Coolant System (RCS). The information in TS 5.4 is currently set forth in the various sections of the UFSAR. Any future changes will be made in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 and 50.71. (The Δ 94 steam generators, which are currently scheduled for replacement in 2000 and 2002 for Units 1 and 2 respectively, will increase the RCS volume.) The requirements for the RCS will remain in TS Section 3/4.4. The deletion of the design features from the TSs and maintenance of the information in the UFSAR is consistent with NUREG-1431, Standard Technical Specifications, Westinghouse Plants.

Specific requirements for the performance of the associated systems, structures and components are specified in the TS limiting conditions for operation, in accordance with the criteria in the Final Policy Statement. The additional detailed information currently in the Design Features section for the RCS is not relied on to satisfy the limiting conditions for operation, or relied on to avert an immediate threat to public health and safety. The information contained in the Design Features section of the TSs is described in the UFSAR, so that any changes to these design features would have to be evaluated under 10 CFR 50.59 before they could be made.

Since the features with a potential to impact safety are sufficiently addressed by limiting conditions for operation, and since design features, if altered in accordance with 10 CFR 50.59, would not result in a significant impact on safety, the criteria of 10 CFR 50.36(c)(4) for including the above design features in the TSs are not met. Therefore, the deletion of the design information from the TSs and maintenance of the information in the UFSAR is acceptable.

4.0 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.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to 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 (63 FR 48266). Accordingly, the amendment meets 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.

6.0 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: Marsha Gamberoni

Date: November 18, 1998