

June 23, 1999

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
RE: RELOCATING INDEPENDENT SAFETY ENGINEERING GROUP
REQUIREMENTS (TAC NOS. MA4995 AND MA4996)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 112 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 and Amendment No. 99 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated March 9, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated May 3, 1999.

The amendments delete the requirement to have an independent safety engineering group (ISEG) but applies the substantive requirements now applicable to the ISEG to other organizations and relocates those requirements from the TSs to Chapter 16 of the Operations Quality Assurance Plan (OQAP). In the letter of May 3, 1999, you submitted the changes to incorporate the substantive TS requirements currently applicable to the ISEG into the OQAP in the form of an independent technical review program and stated that these changes to the OQAP will become effective upon approval of the amendments.

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, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

9906280247 990623
PDR ADDCK 05000498
P PDR

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

- Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 112 to NPF-76
- 2. Amendment No. 99 to NPF-80
- 3. Safety Evaluation

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

cc w/encls: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: See attached page

*see previous concurrence

OFFICE	PDIV-1/PM	C	PDIV-D/LA	C	IQMB/BC		OGC*		PDIV-1/SC	C
NAME	TAlexion		CJamerson		TQuay		RWeisman		RGramm	
DATE	6/21/99		6/21/99		6/22/99		06/16/99		6/23/99	

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDIV-1\SouthTexas\Amd4995.wpd

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

DFC

CP-1

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. G. E. Vaughn/C. A. Johnson
Central Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 289
Mail Code: N5012
Wadsworth, TX 74483

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

Jack R. Newman, 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, Supervisor, Licensing
Quality & Licensing Department
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 289
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
One Alamo Center
106 S. St. Mary's Street, Suite 700
San Antonio, TX 78205-3692

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



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. 112
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 March 9 and May 3, 1999, comply 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.

9906280261 990623
PDR ADDCK 05000498
P PDR

2. Accordingly, Facility Operating License NPF-76 is hereby amended to approve the relocation of requirements on the independent safety engineering group from the Technical Specifications to the Operations Quality Assurance Plan (OQAP) as described in the licensee's application dated March 9, 1999, as supplemented May 3, 1999, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation attached to this amendment. The license is also hereby 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. 112, 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 and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance. Implementation includes incorporating the OQAP pages submitted in the licensee's letter of May 3, 1999, into the OQAP.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: June 23, 1999



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. 99
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 March 9 and May 3, 1999, comply 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.

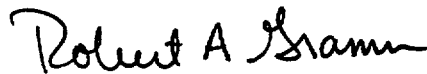
2. Accordingly, Facility Operating License NPF-80 is hereby amended to approve the relocation of requirements on the independent safety engineering group from the Technical Specifications to the Operations Quality Assurance Plan (OQAP) as described in the licensee's application dated March 9, 1999, as supplemented May 3, 1999, and evaluated in the staff's Safety Evaluation attached to this amendment. The license is also hereby 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. 99 , 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 and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance. Implementation includes incorporating the OQAP pages submitted in the licensee's letter of May 3, 1999, into the OQAP.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: June 23, 1999

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 112 AND 99

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

xviii

xviii

6-5

6-5*

6-6

6-6

*Overleaf page provided to maintain document completeness. No changes on this page.

INDEX

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
6.1 RESPONSIBILITY	6-1
 <u>6.2 ORGANIZATION</u>	
6.2.1 OFFSITE AND ONSITE ORGANIZATIONS	6-1
6.2.2 UNIT STAFF	6-1
TABLE 6.2-1 MINIMUM SHIFT CREW COMPOSITION-TWO UNITS WITH TWO SEPARATE CONTROL ROOMS	6-4
6.2.3 (Not Used)	
6.2.4 SHIFT TECHNICAL ADVISOR	6-6
 <u>6.3 (Not Used)</u>	
 <u>6.4 TRAINING</u>	
	6-7
 <u>6.5 REVIEW AND AUDIT</u>	
	6-7
<u>6.5.1 PLANT OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE (PORC)</u>	
Function	6-7
Composition	6-7
Alternates	6-7
Meeting Frequency	6-7
Quorum	6-7
Responsibilities	6-8
Records	6-9

TABLE 6.2-1 (Continued)

TABLE NOTATIONS

*Individual may fill the same position on the opposite Unit.

**One of the two required individuals may fill the same position on the opposite Unit.

***The STA position shall be manned in MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4 unless the Shift Supervisor or the individual with a Senior Operator license meets the qualifications for the STA as required by the NRC.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

6.2.3 (Not Used)

6.2.4 SHIFT TECHNICAL ADVISOR

6.2.4.1 The Shift Technical Advisor shall provide advisory technical support to the Shift Supervisor in the areas of thermal hydraulics, reactor engineering, and plant analysis with regard to the safe operation of the unit. The Shift Technical Advisor shall have a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a scientific or engineering discipline and shall have received specific training the response and analysis of the unit for transients and accidents, and in unit design and layout, including the capabilities of instrumentation and controls in the control room.

6.3 (Not Used)



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 112 AND 99 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 March 9, 1999, STP Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested changes to the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, (STP) Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed changes would remove the independent safety engineering group (ISEG) requirements from the TSs and the associated reference to the ISEG in the STP Operations Quality Assurance Plan (OQAP). The ISEG requirements proposed to be withdrawn from the TSs are the function, composition, responsibilities, and records of the ISEG in Section 6.2.3, Administrative Controls, of the TSs.

A conference call to discuss this submittal with the licensee was held on April 7, 1999. Based on this call, by letter dated May 3, 1999, the licensee revised its submittal to relocate the ISEG commitments, as modified and applied to other organizations, to the OQAP. The revised amendment request proposes to remove the requirement to have an ISEG from the TSs with relocation of the substantive requirements applicable to the ISEG to the OQAP as applied in the form of an independent technical review program. The functions now performed by the ISEG ("ISEG functions") would thus be performed by other organizations. The current TS requirements applicable to the ISEG that are proposed to be relocated, as modified, to the OQAP are shown in the attachment to the licensee's May 3, 1999, letter. Relocation of the ISEG quality assurance-related requirements from the TSs to the OQAP is consistent with the processes described in the staff's Administrative Letter (AL) 95-06, "Relocation of Technical Specification Administrative Controls Related to Quality Assurance."

The licensee's letter of May 3, 1999, provided additional clarifying information within the scope of the original Federal Register notice and did not change the staff's initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

2.0 EVALUATION

2.1 Discussion

Section 182a of the Atomic Energy Act (the "Act") requires applicants for nuclear power plant operating licenses to state the TSs to be included as part of the license. The Commission's

9906280271 990623
PDR ADOCK 05000498
P PDR

regulatory requirements related to the content of the TSs are set forth in 10 CFR 50.36, "Technical Specifications," which requires that the TSs include items in five specific categories, one of which is administrative controls (it is the administrative controls category that applies to the proposed amendments). However, the regulation does not specify the particular requirements to be included in a plant's TSs.

For administrative controls, 10 CFR 50.36 states that they "are the provisions relating to organization and management, procedures, recordkeeping, review and audit, and reporting necessary to assure operation of the facility in a safe manner." The specific content of the administrative controls section of TSs is, therefore, that information that the Commission deems essential for the safe operation of the facility that is not already adequately covered by other regulatory requirements. Accordingly, the staff has determined that requirements that are not specifically mandated under 50.36(c)(5) and which are not otherwise necessary to obviate the possibility of an abnormal situation or event giving rise to an immediate threat to the public health and safety, can be removed from administrative controls. Therefore, some existing TS requirements may be relocated to more appropriate documents, in this case the OQAP, and controlled by the applicable provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(a).

By letter dated December 12, 1995, the staff issued AL 95-06, which provided information regarding experiences involving the relocation of TS administrative controls related to quality assurance. In AL 95-06, the staff compared the content of typical TS administrative controls related to quality assurance requirements with established staff positions and amendment requests. On the basis of this review, the staff provided several observations in order to assist those licensees considering amendment requests related to quality assurance requirements. Several observations in order to assist those licensees considering amendment requests related to relocation of TS ISEG requirements to the OQAP were included.

2.2 Evaluation

The licensee proposed to relocate administrative controls related to ISEG to the OQAP description. Specifically, while there would no longer be a specific ISEG organization, the licensee proposed to remove the substantive ISEG commitments in TS 6.2.3 and relocate them, as applied to other organizations, to a new OQAP Chapter 16, Independent Technical Review. AL 95-06 discusses the relocation of TS ISEG requirements that the staff finds acceptable. Relocation of this requirement to the OQAP was found acceptable. In addition, changes during this relocation were found acceptable as long as the OQAP contains a commitment related to the functions of ISEG, as applied to other organizations, to a level of detail comparable to that previously contained in the TSs.

The staff has reviewed the relocation of the TS ISEG commitments to the independent technical review program of a new Chapter 16 to the OQAP. The commitments, as applied to other organizations, have been relocated as follows:

- The TS commitment regarding areas that ISEG examines is covered by OQAP Chapter 16, Section 6.3.
- The TS commitment regarding making and reporting recommendations is covered by OQAP Chapter 16, Sections 6.6, 6.7, and 7.0.

- The TS commitment regarding ensuring activities are performed correctly and that human errors are reduced as much as practical is covered by OQAP Chapter 16, Section 6.2.
- The TS commitment to have an independent ISEG group consisting of five dedicated full-time engineers was eliminated in this relocation based on other commitments contained in the independent technical review chapter description. These include commitments regarding independence of reviewers, their qualification, and designation of responsibility for the program. The independence of personnel performing the independent technical reviews (the current ISEG functions) is covered by Chapter 16, Section 6.5, which specifically states that "Personnel performing independent technical reviews should be independent of performance function, signoff function, and the plant management chain while performing this oversight activity." A different number of individuals with varied qualifications may be involved in the independent technical review program than were in the ISEG organization described in the TSs. However, Section 6.4 of OQAP Chapter 16 still requires that at least several personnel performing these reviews, as determined by quality assurance management, will have qualifications equaling that previously required by the TSs for ISEG members. In addition, the Director, Quality & Licensing, is responsible for ensuring all the independent technical review commitments of Chapter 16 of the OQAP are accomplished. Having this responsibility specifically assigned helps alleviate the potential for loss of focus by not having a dedicated full-time ISEG organization. The independence of the quality assurance organization itself and its ability to report directly to the chief executive officer also helps maintain the independent nature of the ISEG functions now contained in the OQAP independent technical review program.

2.3 Conclusion

The staff has determined that the revised OQAP contains commitments related to the functions of the ISEG (proposed to be performed by other organizations) to a level of detail comparable to that contained in the TSs. Changes to the OQAP are controlled in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(a) and include requirements for prior NRC review and approval if a change constitutes a reduction in an OQAP commitment. The staff concludes that this regulatory requirement provides sufficient control for the ISEG functions as described in the independent technical review chapter of the OQAP.

The relocated requirements relating to ISEG administrative controls are not required to be in the TSs to meet the requirements under 10 CFR 50.36 or the Act, and are not required to obviate the possibility of an abnormal situation or event giving rise to an immediate threat to the public health and safety. The staff also finds that a comparable level of detail for commitments to ISEG functions is contained in the independent technical review chapter added to the OQAP concurrent with this amendment. The licensee stated in its letter of May 3, 1999, that these changes to the OQAP will become effective upon approval of the amendments. In addition, sufficient regulatory controls for this commitment exist under 10 CFR 50.54(a). Accordingly, the staff has concluded that these requirements may be relocated, as applied to other organizations, from the TSs to the OQAP.

Based on this, the staff concludes that the proposed amendments are acceptable.

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 recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures and requirements. Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). 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: R. J. Smith, Jr.

Date: June 23, 1999

DATED: June 23, 1999

AMENDMENT NO. 112 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-76 - STP UNIT 1
AMENDMENT NO. 99 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-80 - STP UNIT 2

Docket File (50-498/50-499)

PUBLIC

PDIV-1 RF

S. Richards (cover ltr only)

T. Alexion

C. Jamerson

G. Hill (4)

W. Beckner

K. Brockman, RIV

J. Hurley, RIV

J. Kilcrease, RIV

R. Scholl (e-mail SE)

R. J. Smith, Jr.

OGC

ACRS