



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

June 24, 2002

EA-97-341

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

SUBJECT: RELAXATION OF CONFIRMATORY ORDER MODIFYING LICENSE

Dear Mr. Cottle:

This is in response to your April 17, 2002, request for permission to conduct interviews and focus groups in lieu of a required mini-cultural survey of South Texas Project (STP) employees scheduled for September 2002. The requirement for the mini-survey in 2002 is contained in the Confirmatory Order Modifying License issued June 9, 1998, as relaxed by the NRC's letter dated November 24, 1999.

Your request took into account the results of your 2001 comprehensive cultural survey of STP employees, which you enclosed with your April 17, 2002, letter. We understand that rather than conducting a new mini-survey, your request is to conduct interviews and focus groups targeting the Priority 1 organizations identified in the 2001 survey in an effort to allow second-level questioning. You believe this will enhance your ability to assess whether formal action plans which resulted from the 2001 survey are appropriate or need enhancement.

After consultation with the Director, Office of Enforcement, I have been authorized to grant your request. Accordingly, the Confirmatory Order Modifying License is modified to permit you to conduct interviews and focus groups in lieu of the required mini-cultural survey of STP employees in 2002.

Consistent with the order requirements, please inform me when you have completed the interviews and focus groups, and provide me with the results obtained and any corrective actions that you plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator

STP Nuclear Operating Company

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STP Nuclear Operating Company

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