

January 13, 2003

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
ON ATMOSPHERIC STEAM RELIEF VALVES (TAC NOS. MB5162 AND
MB5163)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No.148 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 and Amendment No.136 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated May 22, 2002.

The amendment revises TS 3/4.3.5, allowing the automatic operation of the atmospheric steam relief valves during Mode 2 to maintain secondary side pressure at or below an indicated steam generator pressure of 1225 psig during startup and shutdown of the reactors.

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/

Mohan Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 148 to NPF-76
2. Amendment No. 136 to NPF-80
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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G. Hill (4)

RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv (W. Ruland)

RidsNrrDssaSrbx (J. Wermiel)

RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv-1 (R. Gramm)

RidsNrrPMMThadani

RidsNrrPMMHoncharik

RidsNrrPMTAlexion

RidsNrrLAMMcAllister

RidsNrrDripRorp (R. Dennig)

RidsAcraAcnwMailCenter

RidsOgcRp

RidsRgn4MailCenter (B. Johnson)

C. Liang

ACCESSION NO: ML030150005 *no substantive change from SE input

OFFICE	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-1/LA
NAME	MHoncharik	TAlexion	MThadani	MMcAllister
DATE	12/13/02	12/13/02	12/13/02	12/13/02

OFFICE	SRXB/SC	OGC NLO	PDIV-1/SC
NAME	FAkstulewicz	AFernandez	RGramm
DATE	11/15/02*	1/7/03	1/10/03

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 148
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 Texas Genco, LP, 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 May 22, 2002, 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 Texas Genco, LP, 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. 148, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The STP 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 by Mohan Thadani for/

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: January 13, 2003

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 136
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 Texas Genco, LP, 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 May 22, 2002, 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 Texas Genco, LP, 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. 136, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The STP 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 by Mohan Thadani for/

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: January 13, 2003

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 148 AND 136

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

3/4 3-87

INSERT

3/4 3-87

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 148 AND 136 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 May 22, 2002, STP Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested changes to the South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed changes would revise TS 3/4.3.5, allowing the automatic operation of the atmospheric steam relief valves (ASRVs) during Mode 2 to maintain secondary side pressure at or below an indicated steam generator pressure of 1225 psig during startup and shutdown of the reactors.

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

The ASRV manual controls must be operable in Modes 1, 2, 3, and 4 when steam generators (SGs) are being used for decay heat removal to allow operator action needed for decay heat removal to achieve plant safe shutdown in accordance with Branch Technical Position RSB 5-1. In the accident analysis, automatic controls of the ASRVs at a nominal setpoint of 1225 psig are assumed in STP, Units 1 and 2 for mitigation of a small-break loss-of-coolant accident (SBLOCA) to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR).

The current TS 3/4.3.5 requires that: (1) All four instrumentation channels of the manual actuation controls are operable during Modes 1, 2, 3, and 4 when the SGs are being used for decay heat removal, and (2) All four instrument channels of the automatic actuation controls are operable during Modes 1 and 2 to support accident analysis assumptions. In order to support startup and shutdown activities, a footnote in the current TS Table 3.3.14 indicates that the ASRVs may be in manual operation during Mode 2 to maintain the secondary pressure at or below an indicated SG pressure of 1225 psig. The proposed change will modify the footnote in the TS Table 3.3.14 to read "Atmospheric steam relief valve(s) may be in manual operation and open, or in automatic operation, to maintain secondary side pressure at or below an indicated steam generator pressure of 1225 psig."

3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

In Amendment Nos. 114 and 102 to Facility Operating Licenses for STP, Units 1 and 2, dated August 19, 1999, the NRC staff concluded that the ASRVs and their automatic controls at STP,

Units 1 and 2 are designed to safety-grade standards and powered from Class 1E power supplies. Since the automatic controls of the ASRVs are credited in the SBLOCA analysis, a new TS regarding ASRV instrumentation was added to ensure that the automatic feature of the ASRVs remains operable during Modes 1 and 2.

The footnote in the current TS Table 3.3.14 allows manual operation of the ASRVs during Mode 2 operation to maintain secondary pressure below an indicated SG pressure of 1225 psig. Maintaining the secondary pressure below an indicated SG pressure of 1225 psig satisfies the conditions assumed in the SBLOCA analysis. The licensee's proposed addition of the words "or in automatic operation" to the footnote, provides more flexibility for controlling the ASRVs during Mode 2 startup and shutdown activities, while protecting the plant from a design-basis accident.

Based on the above, the NRC staff considers that the licensee's proposed change provides enhancement of TS 3/4.3.5 and is therefore 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 the 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 (67 FR 45571, dated July 9, 2002). 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.

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: C. Liang

Date: January 13, 2003

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
Texas Genco, LP
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
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. T. J. Jordan, 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

Environmental and Natural Resources
Policy Director
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-3189

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

Brian Almon
Public Utility Commission
William B. Travis Building
P. O. Box 13326
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-3326

Susan M. Jablonski
Office of Permitting, Remediation
and Registration
Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality
MC-122
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

G. R. Bynog, Program Manager/
Chief Inspector
Texas Department of Licensing
and Regulation
Boiler Division
P. O. Box 12157, Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Mr. Ted Enos
4200 South Hulen
Suite 630
Ft. Worth, Texas 76109