



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

January 30, 2003

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

**SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION -  
NOTIFICATION OF NRC INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION  
(EXAMINATION REPORT 50-498/03-301; 50-499/03-301)**

In a meeting in Region IV on January 7, 2003, between Messrs. Michael DeFrees, Operations Training Supervisor, and Bernard Neurohr, SRO Licensed Training Instructor, and Messrs. Mark Haire, Operations Engineer, and Gregory Werner, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the South Texas Project Electric Generation Station during the weeks of August 11 and August 18, 2003.

As agreed during this meeting, your staff will prepare the operating test, and NRC will prepare the written examinations based on the guidelines in draft Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," which can be used as a pilot effort and is currently available on the NRC web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operator-licensing/op-licensing-files/nureg-1021-9d.pdf>. The NRC regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary for the operating test before the examinations are administered during onsite review the week of July 28, 2003. Also, at this time, your staff will be given the opportunity to review the written examinations.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials requested at the meeting by March 3, 2003, and the operating test outlines by April 11, 2003. The operating tests will be due by June 30, 2003. Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. Any delay in receiving the required tests and reference materials or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018, which expires on April 30, 2003.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

I appreciate your participation in the pilot effort for the draft Revision 9 of NUREG 1021, and look forward to your comments on its implementation. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Mike DeFrees has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Gregory Werner at 817-860-8156 or Mr. Anthony Gody at 817-860-8159.

Sincerely,

**//RA//**

Anthony T. Gody, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Dockets: 50-498  
50-499  
Licenses: NPF-76  
NPF-80

STP Nuclear Operating Company

-3-

cc:

Tom Jordan, Vice President  
Engineering & Technical Services  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

S. M. Head, Manager, Licensing  
Nuclear Quality & Licensing Department  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P.O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5014  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

A. Ramirez/C. M. Canady  
City of Austin  
Electric Utility Department  
721 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas 78704

M. T. Hardt/W. C. Gunst  
City Public Service Board  
P.O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, Texas 78296

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom  
Houston Lighting & Power Company  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77251

Jon C. Wood  
Matthews & Branscomb  
112 E. Pecan, Suite 1100  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

A. H. Gutterman, Esq.  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

C. A. Johnson/R. P. Powers  
AEP - Central Power and Light Company  
P.O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5022  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

INPO  
Records Center  
700 Galleria Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

STP Nuclear Operating Company

-4-

Director, Division of Compliance  
& Inspection  
Bureau of Radiation Control  
Texas Department of Health  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756

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

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

Judge, Matagorda County  
Matagorda County Courthouse  
1700 Seventh Street  
Bay City, Texas 77414

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

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

Ted Enos  
4200 South Hulen  
Suite 630  
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

Electronic distribution by RIV:

Regional Administrator **(EWM)**

DRP Director **(ATH)**

DRS Director **(DDC)**

Senior Resident Inspector **(NFO)**

Branch Chief, DRP/A **(WDJ)**

Senior Project Engineer, DRP/A **(CJP)**

Staff Chief, DRP/TSS **(PHH)**

RITS Coordinator **(NBH)**

Only inspection reports to the following:

Scott Morris **(SAM1)**

STP Site Secretary **(LAR)**

DOCUMENT NAME: R:\\_STP\STP3301LT-GEW.WPD

RIV:DRS/OB/SOE	C:OB			
GEWerner:nlh	ATGody			
/RA/	/RA/			
1/ 29 /03	1/ 30 /03			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

T=Telephone

E=E-mail

F=Fax