



**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 it's 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  
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Only inspection reports to the following:  
 Scott Morris **(SAM1)**  
 STP Site Secretary **(LAR)**

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