



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

May 23, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: South Texas Project ADAMS Docket File

THROUGH: Arthur T. Howell III, Director, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP) /RA/  
William D. Johnson, Chief, Project Branch A, DRP /RA/

FROM: Charles J. Paulk, Senior Project Engineer, Project Branch A, DRP /RA/

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF APRIL 22, 2003, CONFERENCE CALL

On April 22, 2003, the NRC held a conference call among members of NRC Headquarters, Region IV, and South Texas Project staff and management. The participants are identified in the attachment. The conference call was a followup to the April 17, 2003, conference call. The purpose of this call was to gather additional information from the licensee regarding the commitments they made during the April 17 call related to an apparent leak from two bottom-mounted instrumentation (BMI) penetrations of the reactor vessel's lower head.

During this call, licensee representatives stated that they intended to use the best available nondestructive examination (NDE) methods to identify the root cause of the leakage. They further stated that they would use the NDE results to evaluate the extent of condition on both units.

NRC Headquarters management expressed concern about the licensee's statement that " the best available NDE" would be used. That statement possibly would only allow the licensee to perform a visual examination. The NRC expressed a concern that visual examinations alone would not answer questions regarding the possible existence of cracks on the other nozzles. NRC staff pointed out that NDE alone does not have the ability to identify whether the root cause of a flaw is fatigue or stress corrosion cracking. In response the licensee representatives said that they would address those concerns in the commitment letter that they would place on the docket later in the week.

The licensee representatives stated that any repair would be in accordance with the ASME Code and that the integrity of the vessel would be maintained. They also stated that they would evaluate for wastage of the carbon steel vessel in the area of the observed leaks.

Another teleconference was scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2003.

Attachment:  
List of Participants

E-mail distribution:

- A. Howell, DRP
- D. Chamberlain, DRS
- W. Johnson, DRP/A
- T. Farnholtz, DRP/A
- B. Gramm, NRR
- M. Thadani, NRR

ADAMS:  **Yes**     No    Initials: \_\_CJP\_\_  
 Publicly Available    **Non-Publicly Available**    Sensitive    **Non-Sensitive**

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RIV:SPE:DRP/A	C:DRP/A	NRR:C/PDIV-1	D:DRP	
CJPaulk;df	WDJohnson	RAGramm	ATHowell	
<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<b>E - TR</b> Farnholtz	<i>/RA/</i>	
5/16/03	5/16/03	5/16/03	5/23/03	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

T=Telephone

E=E-mail

F=Fax

ATTACHMENT

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Licensee Representatives:

Wayne Harrison - Sr. Staff Licensing Engineer  
Scott Head- Manager, Licensing  
Tom Jordan - Vice President, Engineering & Technical Services  
Will Jump - Manager, Training  
Gary Parkey - Vice President, Generation

NRC Representatives:

NRR

Rich Barrett  
Stephanie Coffin  
Robert Gramm  
Mark Hartzman  
Tad Marsh  
Carol Moyer  
Bill Reckley  
Brian Sheron  
Ted Sullivan  
Mohan Thadani  
Len Wert  
John Zwolinski

Region IV

Jim Adams  
Victor Dricks  
Gilbert Guerra  
Pat Gwynn  
Art Howell  
Bill McNeill  
Chuck Paulk  
Dale Powers  
Wayne Sifre