

August 8, 2003

LICENSEE: STP Nuclear Operating Company
FACILITY: South Texas Project, Unit 1
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF HEADQUARTERS, REGION IV, AND SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE OF JUNE 26, 2003, REGARDING SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1, BOTTOM-MOUNTED INSTRUMENTATION LEAKAGE ISSUE; STATUS OF ACTIVITIES (TAC NO. MB8435)

On June 26, 2003, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters and Region IV staff held a telephone conference with South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC), the licensee for South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 & 2. The conference call was a continuation of the ongoing discussions and was a follow up of the licensee's activities following the discovery of an apparent leakage at Unit 1 at the interface of reactor vessel bottom head mounted instrumentation (BMI) penetrations 1 and 46. Enclosure 1 is a list of participants. Enclosure 2 is the telephone conference agenda. Enclosure 3 is STPNOC's Schedule/Plan for Regulatory Interactions.

At this phone call, the licensee discussed the status of ongoing activities in the areas of nozzle repairs, root cause analysis, boat samples, and the status of engineering activities. The licensee outlined the status of these activities as follows:

Repair Status

The licensee has completed the repairs of leaking BMI penetrations 1 and 46. All quality control requirements including magnetic particle examination, dye penetrant examination, ultrasonic examination, boroscopic examination, and wastage assessment have been completed.

Machined J-grooves have been shown to have a high quality surface. No grinding preparation was required for the electrical discharge machining process of cutting boat samples.

The licensee has removed the stuck thimble in penetration no. 31, and has completed the non-destructive examination (NDE) of this nozzle and found no problems.

While working with the repair activities on nozzles 1 and 46, STPNOC discovered debris in the penetrations. Assessments of the debris indicated it to be Inconel material. The debris was in the form of metal shavings. The debris appears to have been deposited in the BMI guide tubes at the time of plant construction, and appears to be the result of machining activities on Inconel material. The licensee is removing and cleaning all the associated guide tubes to resolve this problem.

The licensee also commented that all repair NDE work has been completed.

Boat Samples

A mockup will be fabricated to cut the boat samples. Work is ongoing on qualification coupons. The licensee is working with the laboratories for the analyses of the boat samples. STPNOC is working closely with the NRC staff to keep everyone informed of the results.

Status of Engineering

STPNOC stated that it has received the NRC request for information regarding relief request RR-ENG-2-35 (Boat Samples), and will have the responses to the NRC staff by June 27th. Also, STPNOC will provide a summary of the finite element modeling analyses, observed by the staff during a visit to Framatome in Lynchburg, Virginia, by June 30th. The STPNOC closeout of the April 24, 2003, letter is due to the NRC staff by July 14, 2003. The licensee will discuss the letter at the forthcoming July 17, 2003, meeting. The licensee will provide information to the NRC staff by telephone about material removed by boat samples.

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-498

Enclosures: 1. List of Participants
 2. Telecon Agenda
 3. Schedule/Plan for Regulatory Interactions

cc: see next page

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ACCESSION NO: ML032120641 *via e-mail NRC-001

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STPNOC/NRC TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

JUNE 26, 2003

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Licensee's Participants

Mark McBurnett	Manager of Quality and Licensing
Steve Thomas	Manager, Plant Design
Tim Bowman	Manager, Unit 1 Plant Operation
Harry Murray	BMI Project Manager
Ed Conway	Public Information
Wayne Harrison	Licensing

NRC Participants

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Bob Gramm
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Bill Johnson
Tom Farnholtz
Russ Bywater
Mike Runyan
Wayne Sifre
Niel O'Keefe

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE AGENDA

JUNE 26, 2003

1.	Desired Outcomes & Agenda	McBurnett
2.	Overall status of Unit 1	Bowman
3.	Status of repair activities	Murray
4.	Root Cause	Thomas
5.	Boat sample activities	Thomas
6.	Status of Engineering Actions, summary of analyses, relief requests	McBurnett Thomas
7.	Schedule for next call or other communications and feedback on call	McBurnett

Schedule/Plan for Regulatory Interactions

June 26, 2003

Complete	Date	Action
√	4/12	Notification
√	4/24	Letter identifying STP actions in response to BMI issue
√	5/1	Meeting in Rockville to discuss plans to address issue
√	5/15	Relief Request for alternate filler material
√	6/5	Meeting in Rockville to discuss results of NDE, preliminary cause, and corrective actions
√	6/10	Last supplement for Relief Request for core barrel repair
√	6/11	LER
√	6/13	Relief Request to Support boat sample
√	6/18	Site visit to Lynchburg to review analyses
√	6/19	Relief Request for temper bead repair
√	6/25	Relief Request to leave flaw in service
	6/27	Summary of analyses performed (stress and fatigue)
	7/10	Take boat sample
	7/14	Letter for closeout of 4/24/2003 letter actions Summary Extent of condition Root cause Corrective action Long term monitoring and inspection plans Boat sample analysis plan Restart plan
	-	Meeting in Rockville to discuss 7/14 letter Summary Extent of condition Root cause Corrective action Long term monitoring and inspection plans Boat sample analysis plan Restart plan
	-	Public meeting/NRC exit meeting in Bay City
	10/12	Supplemental LER with boat sample results

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