

## **Nuclear Information and Resource Service**

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September 9, 2003

**Mr. David H. Jaffee, NRR/DLPM/LPD4  
South Texas Project/Project Manager  
Mail Stop 7 D1  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001**

**By Email: [dhj@nrc.gov](mailto:dhj@nrc.gov)**

**Dear Mr. Jaffee:**

**I am writing with regard to the repair to the reactor pressure vessel bottom mounted instrumentation penetration tubes at the South Texas Project nuclear generating station.**

**Please provide Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) with the following information:**

- 1) According to Bulletin 2003-002, lithium-7 and cesium were identified in the deposits to verify that the source was reactor coolant leakage. What other isotopes were identified on the bottom of the reactor pressure vessel or in the cavity beneath the reactor vessel?**
- 2) The bulletin identified that work in cavities under the reactor pressure vessel "presents very high radiation hazards." What were the measured radioactive fields at the bottom of the reactor pressure vessel at South Texas Project?**
- 3) Please provide NIRS with the number of workers exposed and their total exposures received during the inspection and repair of the South Texas Project reactor vessel bottom mounted instrumentation penetrations tubes.**
- 4) If workers were working in the cavity beneath the vessel, were they wearing respirators?**

**NIRS wishes to obtain this information in the interest of health and safety by publicly identifying radiation exposure hazards to industry workers as the result of inspections and**

repairs per the bulletin's request for operators at other Pressurized Water Reactors in the United States.

Thank you,

Paul Gunter, Director  
NIRS Reactor Watchdog Project