

December 18, 2003

Mr. J. J. Sheppard
President and Chief Executive Officer
South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric Generating Station
8 Miles West of Wadsworth, on FM 521
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 - COMPLETION OF
RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR RELIEF CONCERNING FITNESS-FOR-
DUTY ENHANCEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL
(TAC NOS. MB9241 AND MB9242)

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

On April 29, 2003, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Order EA-03-038 (the Order) modifying the operating license for the subject facilities to require compliance with the compensatory measures (CMs) related to fitness-for-duty enhancements applicable to nuclear facility security force personnel. The CMs were listed in Attachment 2 to the Order.

In your initial response to the Order dated June 2, 2003, you requested (1) a relaxation of the requirements of B.1, B.2, and C.1 of Section III of the Order; (2) an extension of thirty-five (35) days, from the date that the NRC provides the basis for the Order requirements, to submit an answer to the Order or request a hearing; and (3) certain information to ensure that you fully understand the underlying basis for the Order. In your letter dated July 23, 2003, you provided a supplemental response and made three specific requests. You requested that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, (1) rescind the interpretation in the July 10, 2003, NRC letter that shift turnover time must be included in the calculation of group work-hour controls; (2) relax the application of the group work-hour controls during the preparation for and conduct of pilot and annual force-on-force exercises; and (3) relax CM C.2(b) regarding group work-hour controls during planned outages and to authorize an alternative that takes into account the Extended Allowed Outages applicable to the South Texas Project, Unit Nos. 1 and 2.

By letter dated October 23, 2003, the NRC staff granted relaxation for the first and second requests from your July 23 2003, letter as described above. In your letter dated December 10, 2003, you withdrew the third relaxation request from your July 23, 2003, letter. We herein acknowledge the withdrawal of the third relaxation request which completes our efforts on these requests.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

Distribution: See next page *See previous concurrence

ADAMS Accession Number:ML033520435

***Telecon concurrence**

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South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2

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South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2

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