

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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Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

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NAME	MMcAllister	RGuzman	RLaufer(telecon)	DJaffe	RGramm
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GWest

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South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. Cornelius F. O'Keefe  
Senior Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P. O. Box 910  
Bay City, TX 77414

A. Ramirez/C. M. Canady  
City of Austin  
Electric Utility Department  
721 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78704

Mr. L. K. Blaylock  
Mr. W. C. Gunst  
City Public Service Board  
P. O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, TX 78296

Mr. C. A. Johnson/A. C. Bakken  
AEP Texas Central Company  
P. O. Box 289  
Mail Code: N5022  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

INPO  
Records Center  
700 Galleria Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30339-3064

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom  
Texas Genco, LP  
P. O. Box 1700  
Houston, TX 77251

Judge, Matagorda County  
Matagorda County Courthouse  
1700 Seventh Street  
Bay City, TX 77414

A. H. Gutterman, Esq.  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. T. J. Jordan, Vice President  
Engineering & Technical Services  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

S. M. Head, Manager, Licensing  
Nuclear Quality & Licensing Department  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P. O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5014  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Environmental and Natural Resources  
Policy Director  
P. O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-3189

Jon C. Wood  
Matthews & Branscomb  
112 East Pecan, Suite 1100  
San Antonio, TX 78205

Arthur C. Tate, Director  
Division of Compliance & Inspection  
Bureau of Radiation Control  
Texas Department of Health  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756

Brian Almon  
Public Utility Commission  
William B. Travis Building  
P. O. Box 13326  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701-3326

South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2

-2-

Susan M. Jablonski  
Office of Permitting, Remediation  
and Registration  
Texas Commission on  
Environmental Quality  
MC-122  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Mr. Terry Parks, Chief Inspector  
Texas Department of Licensing  
and Regulation  
Boiler Division  
P. O. Box 12157  
Austin, TX 78711

Mr. Ted Enos  
4200 South Hulen  
Suite 630  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76109