

December 9, 2004

Mr. James J. Sheppard
President and Chief Executive Officer
STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2 - RE: STEAM GENERATOR TUBE
INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE SPRING 2004 OUTAGE
(TAC NO. MC3648)

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

By letters dated May 4, 2004 (ML041450308), June 16, 2004 (ML041730355), and November 11, 2004 (ML043230294), STP Nuclear Operating Company, the licensee, submitted information pertaining to its steam generator tube inspections for the spring 2004 outage at South Texas Project, Unit 2, in accordance with the Technical Specifications (TS). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff also reviewed the March 5, 2003 (ML030710429), "Preservice Inspection Summary Report for Tubing in Replacement Steam Generators - 2RE09."

The NRC has completed its review of these reports and concludes that the licensee provided the information required by the TS and that no additional action is required at this time. The NRC staff's evaluation of the reports is attached.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David H. Jaffe, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-499

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

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November 2004

South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2

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EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO REVIEW OF THE 2004 STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTION REPORTS
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-80
STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, ET AL.
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2
DOCKET NO. 50-499

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letters dated May 4, 2004 (ML041450308), June 16, 2004 (ML041730355), and November 11, 2004 (ML043230294), STP Nuclear Operating Company, the licensee, submitted information pertaining to its steam generator tube inspections for the spring 2004 outage at South Texas Project (STP), Unit 2, in accordance with the Technical Specifications (TS). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff also reviewed the March 5, 2003 (ML030710429), "Preservice Inspection Summary Report for Tubing in Replacement Steam Generators - 2RE09."

2.0 EVALUATION

STP, Unit 2, replaced four reactor coolant system steam generators in October 2002. The replacement steam generators are Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC, model Delta 94 and have Alloy 690 thermally treated tubes with a nominal outer diameter of 0.688 inches and nominal wall thickness of 0.040 inches. Each steam generator contains 7,585 tubes. The steam generators utilize a full depth hydraulic tubesheet expansion method and have 405 stainless steel tube support plates with trifoil-shaped holes. The U-bends of the tubes installed in rows 1 through 17 were thermally stress relieved after bending.

The licensee provided the scope, extent, methods, and results of its steam generator tube inspections in the documents referenced above. In addition, the licensee described corrective actions (i.e., tube plugging or repair) taken in response to the inspection findings.

During the inspection, the licensee identified three dent signals that were not in the preservice inspection report. The licensee performed an inspection with a rotating pancake coil on two of the dent signals and identified no degradation. The one dent signal not inspected was in the freespan in steam generator C and had a voltage reading of less than 1 volt.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Based on a review of the information provided, the NRC staff concludes that the licensee provided the information required by its TSs. In addition, the staff concludes that there are no technical issues that warrant additional action at this time, since the inspections appear to be consistent with the objective of detecting potential tube degradation and the inspection results appear to be consistent with industry operating experience at similarly designed and operated units.

Principal Contributor: Yamir Diaz

Date: December 9, 2004