



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

May 18, 2005

James J. Sheppard, President and  
Chief Executive Officer  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

**SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, Units 1 and 2 - NOTIFICATION OF NRC INITIAL  
OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION (EXAMINATION  
REPORT 05000498/2005301; 05000499/2005301)**

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

In a telephone conversation on May 17, 2005, between Messrs. Michael DeFrees, Initial Licensed Operator Training Supervisor, and Michael Murphy, Chief Examiner, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, during the week of November 14, 2005.

As agreed during the meeting on February 17, 2005, the NRC will prepare the outlines and the written examination, and your staff will prepare the operating examinations based on the outlines and the guidelines in Revision 9 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." Your support for onsite validation of the examinations is required during the week of October 24, 2005.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any)(OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0101, which expires on June 30, 2006. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, writing the examinations, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail at BJS1@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. DeFrees has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. Murphy at 817-860-8152, or myself at 817-860-8159 .

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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SISP Review Completed: \_Y\_\_\_\_\_ ADAMS: : Yes    ☐ No    Initials: \_MEM\_\_\_\_\_

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