



South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

May 25, 2006
NOC-AE-06002022
10 CFR 50.48

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

South Texas Project
Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
60-Day Response to NRC Generic Letter 2006-03:
"Potentially Nonconforming Hemyc and MT Fire Barrier Configurations"

Reference: NRC Generic Letter 2006-03, "Potentially Nonconforming Hemyc and MT Fire Barrier Configurations", dated April 10, 2006.

NRC Generic Letter (GL) 2006-03, "Potentially Nonconforming Hemyc and MT Fire Barrier Configurations," dated April 10, 2006, was issued to request information from licensees regarding Hemyc and MT fire barriers, or other fire barriers using the materials and configurations described in the generic letter.

GL 2006-03 requested that all addressees provide a response that contains the following information:

1. *Within 60 days of the date of this GL, provide the following:*
 - a. *A statement on whether Hemyc or MT fire barrier material is used at their NPPs and whether it is relied upon for separation and/or safe shutdown purposes in accordance with the licensing basis, including whether Hemyc or MT is credited in other analyses (e.g., exemptions, license amendments, GL 86-10 analyses).*
 - b. *A description of the controls that were used to ensure that other fire barrier types relied on for separation of redundant trains located in a single fire area are capable of providing the necessary level of protection. Addressees may reference their responses to GL 92-08 to the extent that the responses address this specific issue.*

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2. *Within 60 days of the date of this GL, for those addressees that have installed Hemyc or MT fire barrier materials, discuss the following in detail:*
 - a. *The extent of the installation (e.g., linear feet of wrap, areas installed, systems protected),*
 - b. *Whether the Hemyc and/or MT installed in their plants is conforming with their licensing basis in light of recent findings, and if these recent findings do not apply, why not,*
 - c. *The compensatory measures that have been implemented to provide protection and maintain the safe shutdown function of affected areas of the plant in light of the recent findings associated with Hemyc and MT installations, including evaluations to support the addressees' conclusions, and*
 - d. *A description of, and implementation schedules for, corrective actions, including a description of any licensing actions or exemption requests needed to support changes to the plant licensing basis.*
3. *No later than December 1, 2007, addressees that identified in 1.a. Hemyc and/or MT configurations are requested to provide a description of actions taken to resolve the nonconforming conditions described in 2.d.*

STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) does not use Hemyc or MT fire barrier materials for fire barrier separation of redundant trains located in a single fire area.

South Texas Project (STP) utilizes Thermo-Lag in one fire area only (i.e., Fire Area 7) to ensure that one train of safe shutdown cables, circuits and equipment remain free of fire damage in the event of a fire to satisfy 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, III, G requirements. Installation and inspection procedures verified that the barrier products were installed in a manner consistent with the testing and analyses to ensure test configurations and criteria would be bounding to the installed configurations. Deviations from the tested configurations were evaluated in accordance with Generic Letter 86-10, Supplement 1, providing reasonable assurance that the installed fire barrier systems would provide the necessary level of protection.

STPNOC inspects fire rated enclosures outside containment every 18 months to ensure ongoing integrity. Information regarding the utilization of Thermo-Lag in Fire Area 7 was previously reviewed by the NRC. (Reference: Letter ST-AE-NOC-000273, dated October 15, 1998 (TAC Nos. M92177 and M92178)). Test reports, other previous correspondence, and additional information are available on site.

Requests for information 2 and 3 do not apply to STP.

There are no NRC commitments in this letter.

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If there are any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Ken Taplett at (361) 972-8416 or me at (361) 972-7074.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 5-25-06



John W. Crenshaw
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