

August 14, 2006

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, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RE: REQUEST FOR THE USE  
OF DELTA PROTECTION MURUROA BLU SINGLE-USE SUITS  
(TAC NOS. MD2313 AND MD2314)

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

By letter dated May 30, 2006 (Agencywide Documents and Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML061590091), as supplemented by letter dated July 31, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML062140099), pursuant to Part 20 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 20), Section 1703(b), STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC or the licensee) requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) authorization for use of equipment that has not been tested or certified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 (STP-1 and STP-2).

Specifically, STPNOC requested authorization to use the Delta Protection's Self Fed Single Use "Mururoa BLU" Suit Systems (hereafter referred to as the Delta BLU Suits), which are described in "Topical Report for Delta Protection Mururoa BLU Suit Systems," dated October 27, 2005 (TR MURUBLU05NP), manufactured by Delta Protection, France, and previously reviewed and approved by the NRC by letter dated April 10, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML060950499).

The NRC staff's safety evaluation (SE) for TR MURUBLU05NP, dated April 10, 2006, concluded the following:

Based on the NRC staff's review of the referenced TR, the NRC staff concludes that the use of the Mururoa BLU (PVC [polyvinyl chloride] or Ethyfuse) protective suit systems, consistent with the configuration and conditions of use noted above, is in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 20. Granting an approval for the use of these suits with an APF [assigned protection factor] of 2000, against airborne particulate contamination, will improve overall worker safety while working in high surface contaminated areas, and in high and potentially high airborne radioactivity areas, satisfies the 10 CFR Part 20 ALARA [as low as reasonably achievable] requirements, and is, therefore, acceptable.

Additionally, the NRC approval of TR MURUBLU05NP specified the "Approved Device Configuration and Conditions of Use," for the use of the Delta BLU Suits in Section 4.0 of the NRC staff's SE.

In its request, as supplemented, STPNOC committed to use the Delta BLU Suits consistent with TR MURUBLU05NP as well as the "Approved Device Configuration and Conditions of Use," for the use of the Delta BLU Suits in Section 4.0 of the NRC staff's SE. Also, STPNOC's submittal, as supplemented, did not request any exceptions from any of the restrictions with respect to the configurations and conditions of use of the Delta BLU Suits.

The NRC staff finds that the regulatory commitments made by the licensee in Attachment 1 to the supplemental letter dated July 31, 2006, are sufficient to ensure that the licensee will implement the use of this respiratory protective device, consistent with TR MURUBLU05NP, and within the NRC staff's SE approval dated April 10, 2006.

Therefore, based on the information provided in your request, as supplemented, and the above discussion, the NRC staff concludes that licensee's request for the use of the Delta BLU Suit is acceptable for STP-1 and STP-2. The use of the Delta BLU Suit must be (1) consistent with TR MURUBLU05NP, with the APF value of 2,000, and (2) within the NRC staff's SE approval dated April 10, 2006.

Please contact me at (301) 415-1476, if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch IV  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

In its request, as supplemented, STPNOC committed to use the Delta BLU Suits consistent with TR MURUBLU05NP as well as the "Approved Device Configuration and Conditions of Use," for the use of the Delta BLU Suits in Section 4.0 of the NRC staff's SE. Also, STPNOC's submittal, as supplemented, did not request any exceptions from any of the restrictions with respect to the configurations and conditions of use of the Delta BLU Suits.

The NRC staff finds that the regulatory commitments made by the licensee in Attachment 1 to the supplemental letter dated July 31, 2006, are sufficient to ensure that the licensee will implement the use of this respiratory protective device, consistent with TR MURUBLU05NP, and within the NRC staff's SE approval dated April 10, 2006.

Therefore, based on the information provided in your request, as supplemented, and the above discussion, the NRC staff concludes that licensee's request for the use of the Delta BLU Suit is acceptable for STP-1 and STP-2. The use of the Delta BLU Suit must be (1) consistent with TR MURUBLU05NP, with the APF value of 2,000, and (2) within the NRC staff's SE approval dated April 10, 2006.

Please contact me at (301) 415-1302 or Mohan Thadani at (301) 415-1476, if you have any questions on this matter.

Sincerely,  
*/RA/*  
 Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager  
 Plant Licensing Branch IV  
 Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

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ACCESSION NO: **ML061940207**

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