May 21, 2008

Mr. Gregory Gibson, Manager
Regulatory Affairs
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LETTER NO. 48 RELATED TO THE SRP SECTION 05.02.05 FOR THE SOUTH TEXAS COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Gibson:

By letter dated September 20, 2007, STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) submitted for approval a combined license application pursuant to 10 CFR Part 52. The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is performing a detailed review of this application to enable the staff to reach a conclusion on the safety of the proposed application.

The NRC staff has identified that additional information is needed to continue portions of the review. The staff's request for additional information (RAI) is contained in the enclosure to this letter.

To support the review schedule, you are requested to respond within 45 days of the date of this letter. If changes are needed to the safety analysis report, the staff requests that the RAI response include the proposed wording changes.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, I can be reached at 301-415-1494 or by e-mail at George.Wunder@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

George F. Wunder, Senior Project Manager
ESBWR/ABWR Projects Branch 2
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-012
52-013

eRAI Tracking No. 164

Enclosure:
Request for Additional Information

cc: William Mookhoek

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, I can be reached at 301-415-1494 or by e-mail at George.Wunder@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

George F. Wunder, Senior Project Manager
ESBWR/ABWR Projects Branch 2
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Docket Nos.: 52-012
52-013

eRAI Tracking No. 164

Enclosure:
Request for Additional Information

cc: William Mookhoek

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***Approval captured electronically in the electronic RAI system.**

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Request for Additional Information
South Texas Project Units 3 and 4
South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Co.
Docket Nos. 52-012 and 52-013
SRP Section: 05.02.05 - Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Leakage Detection
Application Section: 5.2.5

QUESTION

05.02.05-3

STD DEP 7.3-12 identifies the departure that changes the unidentified leakage limit from 3.785 L/min to 19 L/min (i.e. from 1 gpm to 5 gpm). The operating experience at Davis Besse indicated that prolonged low level unidentified leakage inside containment could cause material degradation such that it could potentially compromise the integrity of a system leading to the gross rupture of the reactor coolant pressure boundary. In order for the proposed departure to be found acceptable it would require proper compensatory measures (such as new operating procedures in response to leakage rates less than the limit set forth in the plant technical specifications). The applicant should establish a low leakage alarm setpoint that is set at 3.785 L/min (1 gpm) above normal leakage and below the TS limit of 19 L/min (5 gpm) to provide the operator sufficient time to take actions before the TS limit is reached. The applicant should also establish procedures that specify operator actions in response to leakage rates that are less than the limits set fourth in the TS. Please include this information in the FSAR and/or the departures report (as appropriate), and provide a markup in your response.