Nuclear Operating Company

South Texas Project Electric Generating Station 4000 Avenue F – Suite A Bay City, Texas 77414

August 18, 2008
ABR-AE-08000064

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

South Texas Project
Units 3 and 4
Docket No. 52-012 and 52-013
Topical Report of NRW-FPGA-Based I&C System Design Process

References:

1. Memorandum, Vanice A. Perin to Stacey L. Rosenburg, Subject: Forthcoming Closed Meeting with Toshiba International Corporation (Toshiba) to Discuss Proprietary Information, dated June 27, 2008 (ML081700416)

2. Letter, K. Okamura to Document Control Desk, "Submittal of Proprietary Version of Toshiba Topical Report, NRW-FPGA-Based I&C System Design Process," dated March 14, 2008 (ML080780577)

This letter is a follow-up to discussions during the meeting cited in Reference 1 expressing a continued interest in NRC review and approval of the Toshiba Topical Report (UTLR-0001-P) on Non-Rewritable Field Programmable Gate Array-Based Instrumentation and Control (NRW-FPGA-Based I&C) System design process cited in Reference 2. The STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) is considering the Toshiba Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) digital platform for safety system implementation in South Texas Project (STP) Units 3 and 4. As you are aware, the cost and effectiveness of nuclear power plant I&C implementation is an ongoing issue for many new and operating nuclear power plants. Increasing the availability of qualified nuclear I&C suppliers will help all US nuclear utilities to develop more technically effective and cost beneficial alternatives for implementing, maintaining, and upgrading instrumentation.

During the referenced meeting, the review schedule and projected approval path of the subject Topical Report was discussed. Our understanding is that USNRC review of the mentioned Topical Report is a low priority caused by the lack of endorsement or expressed interest from a United States nuclear facility. We hope that our interest in the use of this FGPA digital platform will heighten the priority for the review of the Topical Report and the ensuing Safety Evaluation Report (SER).

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Once the Toshiba FPGA Topical Report SER is available for nuclear utility reference, STPNOC expects to consider Toshiba as a qualified candidate for use in safety related systems. This will also allow other US nuclear plants to consider the Toshiba FPGA digital platform as a generically qualified candidate for potential future safety system upgrades and replacements or new plant implementations.

There are no commitments in this letter.

If you have questions, please call me at (361) 972-4626, or Bill Mookhoek at (361)-972-7274.

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

Executed on August 18, 2008

Greg Gibson
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
South Texas Project, Units 3 & 4

teh/ccc

cc: (paper copy)

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