



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

March 4, 2009

Mr. Edward D. Halpin, Chief Nuclear Officer
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC
GENERATING STATION (REPORT 05000498/2009001 AND 5000499/2009001)

Dear Mr. Halpin:

On February 10, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only – Security-Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, South Texas Project Electric Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (817) 860-8249 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

George D. Replogle, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch A
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Dockets: 50-498, 50-499
Licenses: NPF-76, NPF-80

Enclosure: South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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SUNSI Rev Compl.	☒ Yes ☐ No	ADAMS	☒ Yes ☐ No	Reviewer Initials	GR
Publicly Avail	☒ Yes ☐ No	Sensitive	☐ Yes ☒ No	Sens. Type Initials	GR
C:DRP/A	D:DRS	D:DRP	C:DRP/A signature		
GDReplogle	RJCaniano	DDChamberlain	CDReplogle		
/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/		
2/18/2009	2/18/2009	2/23/2009	2/23/2009		

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T=Telephone

E=E-mail

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South Texas Project
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2009 - 06/30/2010

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End				
			EB1-17 - 50.59 & MODS		4
1, 2	03/09/2009	03/20/2009	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			RP-ORS4 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA		1
1, 2	04/06/2009	04/10/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
1, 2	04/06/2009	04/10/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	04/06/2009	04/10/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			EB2-07T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		1
1, 2	06/08/2009	06/12/2009	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			7111111B - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION		3
1, 2	08/03/2009	08/07/2009	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			EB1-08 - U1 INSERVICE INSPECTION		2
1	10/04/2009	11/08/2009	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
1	10/04/2009	11/08/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			RP-ORS5 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ACCESS		1
1, 2	10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
1, 2	10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			EP1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
1, 2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1, 2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing	
1, 2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1, 2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1, 2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			EB1-08P - INSERVICE INSPECTION - U2		3
2	04/05/2010	04/23/2010	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
2	04/05/2010	04/23/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	