From: Mohan Thadani
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 3:52 PM
To: Harrison, Albon; Internet:
Cc: Marshall David; Janet Burkhardt; Susan Lent
Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDMENT REQUEST DATED 3/3/2008.-DEVIATION FROM FIRE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

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

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RE: DEVIATION FROM FIRE PROTECTION PROGRAM REQUIRMRNTS (TAC NOS. ME0824 AND ME0825)

Dear Mr. Halpin:

By letter dated March 3, 2009, (ADAMS Accession No. ML090680781) STP Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff approval of amendments to Operating Licenses for South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, regarding proposed deviation from STP, Units 1 and 2 Fire Protection Program requirements.

The proposed amendments would revise Operating Licenses to allow the performance of operator manual actions to achieve and maintain safe shutdown in the event of a fire in lieu of meeting circuit separation protection requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Section III.G.2.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to proceed with its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed relief request in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. If additional information is needed for the staff to complete its technical review, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1476 or by e-mail Mohan.Thadani@nrc.gov.

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