November 18, 2009

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LETTER NO. 290 RELATED TO SRP SECTIONS 03.03 FOR THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Head

By letter dated September 20, 2007, STP Nuclear Operating Company (STP) 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 **30** 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 301-415-8484 or by e-mail at Tom.Tai@nrc.gov or you may contact George Wunder at 301-415-1494 or George.Wunder@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Tom M. Tai, Senior Project Manager
ABWR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-012
52-013

eRAI Tracking No. 3860

Enclosure:
Request for Additional Information

cc: William Mookhoek
John Price

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

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Request for Additional Information No. 3860 Revision 3

South Texas Project Units 3 and 4
South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Co
Docket No. 52-012 and 52-013
SRP Section: 03.03.01 - Wind Loading
Application Section: FSAR 3.3.1

QUESTIONS for Structural Engineering Branch 2 (ESBWR/ABWR Projects) (SEB2)

03.03.01-9

In its response to **RAI 03.03.01-5** the Applicant has committed to revise COLA Section 3.3.3.3 as follows:

“The design criteria for plant structures, systems and components (SSCs) not designed for wind loads are as follows: Such SSCs not designed for wind loads are analyzed using the1.15 (instead of 1.11) importance factor or are checked to ensure that their mode of failure will not affect the ability of safety-related SSCs to perform their intended safety functions.”

In order to comply with the interaction requirements per SRP 3.7.2.II.8(C), the applicant is requested to provide and evaluate the safety margins against failure of SSC to wind loads whenever wind loads are the governing design loads on a structure. The safety margin shall be equivalent to the one obtained for a seismic category I SSC. The revised COLA Section 3.3.3.3 should also include a reference to the design parameters listed in the response given above regarding design to prevent collapse of SSC with II/I interaction potential.

Enclosure