

December 23, 2009

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

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT WITH OPEN ITEMS FOR CHAPTER 18
REGARDING THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT COMBINED LICENSE
APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Head:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is preparing a safety evaluation report (SER) with open items (OIs) for each chapter of the South Texas Project Units 3 & 4 Combined License Application (COLA) submitted by STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) on September 20, 2007.

The staff's SER with OIs for Chapter 18 will soon be provided to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee to support upcoming meetings of the ACRS Subcommittee, scheduled to be held in March of 2010. The staff is continuing to review the COLA and may identify additional open items as a result of future Dominion submittals.

The enclosed SER with OIs is being provided to South Texas Project for review of proprietary information. Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390, we have determined that the enclosed SER with OIs may contain proprietary information or other categories of information that should be withheld from public disclosure. We will delay placing the enclosure in the public document room for a period of seven (7) days from the date of this letter to provide you with the opportunity to comment on information in the enclosed SER/OIs that should be withheld from public

NOTICE: Document transmitted herewith
contains sensitive unclassified information.
When separated from the enclosure this cover
letter is "DECONTROLLED."

S. Head

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disclosure. If you believe that any information in the enclosures is proprietary, please identify such information line by line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.390.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark Tonacci, Chief
ESBWR/ABWR Projects Branch 2
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-012
52-013

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items - Chapter 18

cc w/o encls: See next page

S. Head

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Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items - Chapter 18

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