

February 24, 2010

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 CHAPTERS 5, 8, 16, AND 17 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 Chapters 5, 8, 16 and 17 have been 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 STPNOC submittals.

The enclosed SERs with OIs are being provided to STPNOC for review of proprietary information. Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390, we have determined that the enclosed SERs with OIs may contain proprietary information or other categories of information that should be withheld from public disclosure. We will delay placing the enclosures in the public document room to provide you with the opportunity to comment on information in the enclosed SERs with OIs that should be withheld from public disclosure.

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

S. Head

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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

Enclosures:
Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items - Chapters 5, 8, 16, 17

cc w/o encls: See next page

S. Head

- 2 -

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