



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
1600 EAST LAMAR BLVD  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

April 24, 2012

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

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION -  
NOTIFICATION OF NRC TRIENNIAL HEAT EXCHANGER  
INSPECTION (05000498/2012003 & 05000499/2012003)

Dear Mr. Halpin:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region IV staff will conduct a triennial heat sink performance inspection at your South Texas Project facility. The inspection will be comprised of one reactor inspector from the NRC Region IV office. The inspection will be conducted in accordance with Inspection Procedure 71111.07, "Heat Sink Performance."

The schedule for the inspection is as follows:

Onsite inspection – May 21 – 24, 2012

Experience has shown that this inspection is resource intensive both for the NRC inspectors and your staff. In order to minimize the impact to your onsite resources and to ensure a productive inspection, we have enclosed a request for documents needed for this inspection. Please note that the documents are requested to be provided by May 14, 2012. We request, that during the onsite inspection week, you ensure that copies of analyses, evaluations, or documentation regarding the implementation and maintenance of your heat exchanger program are available. Of specific interest are those documents that establish that your heat exchanger program satisfies NRC regulatory requirements and conforms to applicable NRC guidance. Also, appropriate personnel knowledgeable of safety-related heat exchangers should be available to support the inspector at the site during the inspection.

We have discussed the schedule for this inspection activity with your staff and understand that our regulatory contact for this inspection will be Robyn Savage of your licensing organization. If there are any questions about this inspection or the material requested, please contact the inspector, Robert Latta, at 817-200-1532 or by email, [robert.latta@nrc.gov](mailto:robert.latta@nrc.gov).

This letter does not contain new or amended information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). Existing information collection requirements were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, control number 3150 0011. The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

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

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Farnholtz, Chief  
Engineering Branch 1  
Division of Reactor Safety

Dockets: 50-498; 50-499  
Licenses: NPF-76; NPF-80

Enclosure:  
Heat Sink Performance Inspection Document Request

cc: Electronic distribution for South Texas Project Electric Generating Station

## Heat Sink Performance Inspection Document Request

Inspection Dates: May 21 – 24, 2012  
Inspection Procedures: IP 71111.07, Triennial "Heat Sink Performance"  
Inspector: Robert Latta, Sr. Reactor Inspector

### Information Requested for the In-Office Preparation Week

The following information should be sent to the Region IV office in hard copy or electronic format (ims.certrec.com database preferred), in care of Robert Latta, by May 14, 2012. The inspector will select specific items from the information requested below and then request from your staff additional documents needed during the onsite inspection week. Also, we request that you categorize the documents in your response with the numbered list below. Please provide requested documentation electronically if possible. If requested documents are large and only hard copy formats are available, please inform the inspector, and provide subject documentation during the first day of the onsite inspection. If you have any questions regarding this information request, please call the lead inspector as soon as possible.

The following heat exchangers/heat sinks have been selected for inspection:

- Unit 1 Residual Heat Removal Heat Exchanger "A" Train
- Unit 1 Electrical Auxiliary Building Main Area
- Unit 2 Emergency Diesel Generator 22 Cooling Water System
- Unit 2 Essential Chiller "B" Train

### For all Generic Letter 89-13 exchangers:

1. List of corrective action program documents (with a short description) associated with Generic Letter 89-13 heat exchangers, heat sinks, silting, corrosion, fouling, heat exchanger cavitation, or heat exchanger testing, in the previous three years.
2. System health report(s) and maintenance rule system notebooks for all the GL 89-13 heat exchangers.
3. Copy of any self-assessments done on any GL 89-13 heat exchangers in the previous three years.
4. Copies of procedures developed to implement the recommendations of Generic Letter 89-13, e.g., the Generic Letter 89-13 Heat Exchanger Program description.

**For the specific heat exchangers selected:**

Testing Documents

5. Copies of the two most recent completed tests confirming thermal performance for those heat exchangers which are performance tested.
6. Instrument uncertainties of the instruments used during testing.
7. Copy of any operability determinations or other documentation of degradation associated with the heat exchangers or the systems that support the operation for the selected heat exchangers.
8. Documents that show the as-found results are recorded, evaluated, and appropriately dispositioned such that the as-left condition is acceptable.

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Cleaning Documents

9. The cleaning and inspection maintenance schedule for each heat exchanger for the next five years.
10. Copy of the document describing the inspection results for the last two cleaning and inspection activities completed on each heat exchanger.
11. Cleaning procedures with acceptance criteria for the selected heat exchangers.
12. Copies of the documents that verify the structural integrity of the heat exchanger, e.g., eddy current summary sheets, ultrasonic testing results, and visual inspection results.
13. Copies of those documents that describe the methods taken to control water chemistry in the heat exchangers.

Design Documents

14. Copies of the design basis documents and updated final safety analysis report pages for the selected heat exchangers.
15. Provide a list of calculations with a description which currently apply to each heat exchanger.
16. Copies of vendor data sheets and design basis data for the selected heat exchangers.
17. Copy of the calculation which establishes the limiting (maximum) design basis heat load which is required to be removed by each of these heat exchangers.
18. Copy of the calculation which correlates surveillance testing results from these heat exchangers with design basis heat removal capability (e.g., basis for surveillance test acceptance criteria).

19. Copy of the calculations or documents which evaluate the potential for water hammer or excessive tube vibration in the heat exchanger or associated piping.
20. Copy of the document which identifies the current number of tubes in service for each heat exchanger and the supporting calculation which establishes the maximum number of tubes which can be plugged in each heat exchanger.
21. Copy of the document establishing the repair criteria (plugging limit) for degraded tubes which are identified in each heat exchanger.

Inspector Contact Information:

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817-200-1532  
[robert.latta@nrc.gov](mailto:robert.latta@nrc.gov)

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