



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 22, 2012

Mr. D. W. Rencurrel
Sr. Vice President, Technical
Support and Oversight
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE REVISION FOR THE SAFETY REVIEW OF THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NOS. ME4936 AND ME4937)

Dear Mr. Rencurrel:

By letter dated October 25, 2010, South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) submitted an application pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 54, to renew the South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2, operating licenses NPF-076 and NPF-080, respectively, for review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff). The staff finds that adequate resolution of technical issues to resolve open items to support an effective Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) subcommittee meeting cannot be achieved within the current schedule. Enclosed is the staff's revised safety review schedule for the STP license renewal application (LRA).

Specific open items at this time are: (1) aluminum bronze selective leaching; (2) operating experience; (3) reactor head closure stud insert; (4) open cycle cooling water heat-affected zones; (5) reactor vessel extended beltline embrittlement; (6) reactor coolant pressure boundary cycles; (7) essential cooling water component life; (8) heat exchanger debris-coating failures; (9) capped safety injection valve leakage; (10) pressure-temperature limits; and (11) foreign ownership and control.

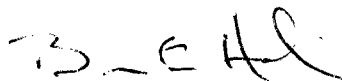
In addition, the open item on the Selective Leaching of Aluminum Bronze Program is extensive and has been the subject of three rounds of requests for information and a supplemental audit. Deficiencies in multiple areas related to overall program adequacy remain unresolved. The most important issues needing additional information are: (1) explanations of the morphology of defective areas (e.g., material phase and defect propagation); (2) analytical basis for the program (i.e., assumptions and inputs); (3) testing and sampling methodology proposed for the period of extended operation. The staff finds that without a clear understanding of the defect mechanism, extent of condition, and long-term plans to mitigate impacts on the plant, the program as currently described is not sufficient to demonstrate reasonable assurance that it will adequately manage the effects of aging.

The staff has revised the license renewal review schedule to delay the SER with open items, the ACRS subcommittee meeting, the final SER, the ACRS full committee meeting, and the renewed license decision because it will require additional time to complete its review of open items.

In order to support timely completion of the SER with open items, complete and timely responses to staff RAIs must be submitted by the applicant. After receiving the RAI responses, the staff will review and incorporate the responses into its safety review. The timeliness of your responses is necessary to maintain the schedule, and any delay would result in additional revisions to the enclosed schedule with the potential of leaving milestone schedule dates to be determined until responses are received and appropriately factored into a new schedule. We request that you inform the NRC as soon as possible regarding any potential delays in your support of the revised schedule.

The NRC will continue to follow established review procedures and the enclosed safety review schedule to complete the reviews required by 10 CFR Part 54. If you have any questions on this revised schedule, please contact Mr. John Daily, Project Manager for the safety review of the STP Units 1 and 2 LRA, by telephone at 301-415-3873 or by e-mail at john.daily@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Brian E. Holian, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure:
Revised Schedule

cc w/encl: Listserv

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
UPDATED SAFETY REVIEW SCHEDULE

Milestone	Schedule	Actual
Receive license renewal application (LRA)	10/26/10	10/28/10
Publish Federal Register Notice (FRN) – LRA availability	12/09/10	12/09/10
Public Meeting – License Renewal Overview and Environmental Scoping	03/02/11	03/02/11
Deadline for filing hearing requests and petitions for intervention	03/14/11	03/14/11
Audit – Scoping & Screening Audit Methodology	05/16/11	05/20/11
Audit – Aging Management Programs	06/13/11	06/24/11
Issue safety evaluation report (SER) with open items	9/2012	
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee	11/2012	
Issue final SER	2/2013	
ACRS full committee meeting	3/2013	
Decision – Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (if no hearing)	5/2013	
Commission decision (if hearing)	TBD	

ENCLOSURE

Letter to D. W. Rencurrel from Brian E. Holian dated May 22, 2012

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE REVISION FOR THE SAFETY REVIEW OF THE SOUTH TEXAS
PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NOS.
ME4936 AND ME4937)

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian E. Holian, Director
 Division of License Renewal
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure:
 Revised Schedule

cc w/encl: Listserv

DISTRIBUTION: See next page

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