



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

February 26, 2013

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

SUBJECT: REQUESTED SCHEDULE SUSPENSION 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 a license renewal application (LRA) 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). In your letter dated December 11, 2012, you requested a temporary suspension of the safety review of the LRA for calendar year 2013, except to the limited extent necessary to issue the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) with Open Items and place the work in a status that can be readily resumed in 2014 without duplicating effort. The letter also states that STPNOC desires to refocus resources to support the near-term operations of Units 1 and 2, and to work on current open issues associated with the LRA.

The staff agrees with the request subject to the following observations:

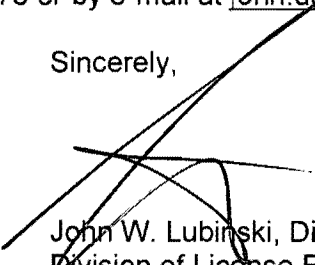
- The staff completed its SER with the open items as of December 2012 in order to efficiently document the status of the project to date.
- The staff understands that you will continue to provide annual updates in accordance with 10 CFR 54.21(b), and you will respond to the outstanding requests for additional information (RAIs) in 2014 upon resumption of the safety review.
- The staff has issued RAI B2.1.37-5, which is the RAI related to the open item on your Selective Leaching of Aluminum Bronze aging management program.
- The staff understands that you intend to continue supporting the environmental review of the LRA and that no suspension of the environmental review is requested.
- The staff will continue to manage the project on a minimal basis and to track the status of any developments in the selective leaching of aluminum bronze issue.

D.W. Rencurrel

- 2 -

This letter and the enclosed safety review schedule update will be posted to the website reflecting the pause in activities to inform the public. If you have any questions on this course of action, 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,



John W. Lubinski, 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	02/2013*	02/2013
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee	TBD	
Issue final SER	TBD	
ACRS full committee meeting	TBD	
Decision – Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (if no hearing)	TBD	
Commission decision (if hearing)	TBD	

*Safety Review Portion of the Schedule is temporarily paused until 2014 at request of the applicant

ENCLOSURE

D.W. Rencurrel

- 2 -

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Sincerely,

/RA/

John W. Lubinski, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Revised Schedule

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DISTRIBUTION: See next page

ADAMS Accession No.: ML13052A382

*concurring via email

OFFICE	LA:DLR/RPB1	PM:DLR/RPB1	BC:DLR/RPB2	BC:DLR/RPB1	D:DLR
NAME	IKing	JDaily	DWrona	DMorey	JLubinski
DATE	2/22/13	2/24/13	2/26/13	2/26/13	2/26/13

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to D. W. Rencurrel from J. Lubinski dated February 26, 2013

SUBJECT: REQUESTED SCHEDULE SUSPENSION FOR THE SAFETY REVIEW OF THE
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APPLICATION (TAC NOS. ME4936 AND ME4937)

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