



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

May 26, 2017

Mr. James W. Connolly
Site Vice President
STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
12090 Farm Road 521
(8 Miles W of Wadsworth on Fm 521)
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SECOND SCHEDULE RELAXATION FROM REQUIREMENTS IN THE ORDER FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES AND FINGERPRINTING FOR UNESCORTED ACCESS AT THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION

Dear Mr. Connolly:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued an Order on December 30, 2014, EA-14-190 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML14358A288), to South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC). The Order requires compliance with additional security measures (ASMs) related to physical protection and access authorization, and fingerprinting for the independent spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) at South Texas Project Electric Generating Station (STP).

STPNOC responded to the order on January 15, 2015 (NOC-AE-15003208, ADAMS Accession No. ML15029A422), and stated that full implementation of the ASMs would be completed by December 30, 2015, with the initial placement of fuel in the ISFSI scheduled for June 2016. In a letter dated December 3, 2015 (NOC-AE-15003317, ADAMS Accession No. ML16015A017), STPNOC communicated that it had revised the schedule for full implementation of the ASMs to 90 days before initial placement of fuel in the ISFSI. Based on the revised schedule, the initial fuel load would have been June 2017. Additionally, in the December 3, 2015, letter, STPNOC requested a relaxation of the ASM implementation schedule, as required by Section III.A of the Order. On April 29, 2016, the NRC granted relaxation of the ASM implementation schedule (ADAMS Accession No. ML16102A349).

On December 14, 2016, STPNOC submitted another letter requesting a second relaxation of the ASM implementation schedule to accommodate delays in the completion of the ISFSI project (ADAMS Accession No. ML16365A021). This second relaxation would extend implementation of the ASMs until November 1, 2018, and is needed because completion of the ISFSI construction and placement of fuel is being delayed until February 2019. STPNOC discussed this relaxation request during telephone conferences with the NRC staff in October and November 2016.

Based on the NRC's review of the information provided by STPNOC, I find that you have demonstrated good cause for relaxation of specific provisions of the Order. Because the schedule for STPNOC to complete construction and place fuel in the ISFSI has been delayed until February 2019, a corresponding delay in implementation of the ASMs is reasonable. Your request for relaxation of Section III.A of the Order is therefore granted.

Implementation of the ASMs required by the Order shall be completed 90 days before the first day that spent fuel is initially placed in the ISFSI, as required by EA-14-190. The revised STP physical security plan (PSP) must be submitted to the NRC by November 1, 2018, and the NRC plans to conduct the on-site security inspection at STP by November 30, 2018. These items are required to verify compliance with the Order. As stated in the Order, STPNOC is required to notify the NRC when full compliance is achieved. If the schedule is further delayed, STPNOC must provide the NRC with an updated schedule regarding ISFSI construction completion, the proposed initial spent fuel loading, and the implementation of the ASMs.

The Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards will issue a letter following completion of the security inspection and review of the revised PSP documenting the NRC's findings regarding compliance with the terms of the ISFSI Security Order.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Raynard Wharton of my staff at 301-415-7497.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marc L. Dapas, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-1041

cc: Distribution via ListServ

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