



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

August 19, 1987

The Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gramm:

Today, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is releasing documents related to an investigation of NRC activities involving the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant under construction in Texas. Included in the material being made public are a November 1986 report of the Commission's Office of Inspector and Auditor, a March 1987 report of the Comanche Peak Report Review Group, and an April 14 memorandum from the Executive Director for Operations to the Commissioners concerning the Review Group's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Bradburne".

John C. Bradburne, Director
Congressional Affairs
Office of Governmental
and Public Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

A-16



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

*Houston Lgt.
Plant 2*

May 12, 1988

The Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gramm:

In your March 10, 1988 letter to Chairman Zech, you requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) employ every means available to assure the operational safety of the South Texas Nuclear Project (STNP). This is to advise you that the NRC has conducted a thorough evaluation of the STNP and concluded that the plant can be operated safely, and that, consistent with the NRC's statutory responsibilities the staff will do everything necessary to assure operational safety.

The STNP is the only plant with a Westinghouse design of its type currently operating in the United States. For this reason and because this is the first nuclear plant to be operated by Houston Lighting & Power Company, the licensee, the NRC devoted even more resources to the design and operational reviews of the plant than the considerable resources usually devoted to the licensing process. For example, the NRC staff conducted two operational readiness reviews of the plant before a full-power license was issued. In January of this year, an NRC team conducted an inspection of the STNP in response to approximately 700 allegations of unsafe conditions raised by the Government Accountability Project. For this inspection and associated evaluations, over 3300 hours of effort were expended. The results of this inspection are documented in NUREG-1306, "NRC Safety Significance Assessment Team Report on Allegations Related to the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2," a copy of which is enclosed for your use. The results of this inspection confirmed the results of approximately 30,000 hours of inspection conducted by the NRC regional staff during construction of the STNP.

The NRC is continuing to evaluate the licensee's performance now that the plant is operating. NRC coverage was round-the-clock during key phases of the initial startup and ascent to 30% power. When the plant reaches 50% power, further assessments will be conducted. The licensee will perform an operational self-assessment. At the same time, the NRC will conduct its own assessment, not only of operations, but also of the licensee's ability to perform an adequate self assessment.

As is the case with all commercial nuclear power plants, full-time NRC resident inspectors will be at the STNP to monitor the licensee's operation of the project. Members of the NRC's headquarters and regional staffs will conduct periodic inspections of the licensee's performance. In addition, the NRC

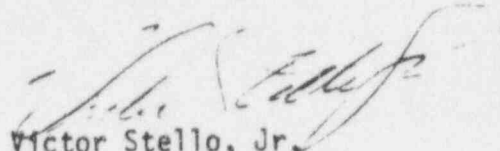
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will analyze and compare the information collected on plant performance with data from other plants in order to discern both current performance and trends.

I trust the foregoing information will give you confidence in the continuing effectiveness of our assessment of the performance at the STNP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Victor Stello, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 10, 1988

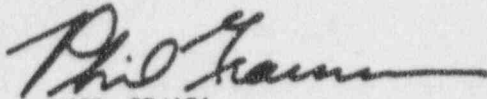
Mr. Lando Zech, Jr.
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Zech:

I am writing to request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission employ every means available to assure the operational safety of the South Texas Nuclear Project (STNP) in Bay City, Texas.

The continuing requirement for assuring the safety of both the neighboring public and the plant's workers, I believe, must be a paramount concern for the NRC as it considers licensing the plant for initial operations.

Yours respectfully,


PHIL GRAMM
United States Senator

PG:scb



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Locke File

The Honorable Phil Gramm
United States Senate
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*See previous concurrences:

PD4/LA*
PNoonan
05/04/88

PD4/PM*
GDick:sr
05/04/88

PD4/D* Tech. Ed.*
JCalvo
05/04/88 05/04/88

OGC *OGC*
05/12/88
DR4A *DR4A*
LRubens *LRubens*
05/15/88

DCrutchfield
05/6/88

ADP
FMI *FMI*
05/6/88

DNRR
Merley
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EDD
VStello
05/11/88

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the information collected on plant performance will be analyzed and compared with data from other plants in order to discern both current performance and trends.

I trust the foregoing information will give you confidence in the continuing effectiveness of our assessment of the performance at STNP.

Sincerely,

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated

DISTRIBUTION w/o enclosure:

Docket File
EDO # 003657
F. Miraglia
L. Rubenstein
SECY
P. Shea
P. Noonan

NRC PDR w/cy of incoming
EDO Reading
PD4 Reading
OGC-Rockville
V. Stello
G. Dick w/cy of incoming
PD4 Green Ticket File

Local PDR w/cy of incoming
T. Murley/J. Sniezek
D. Crutchfield
GPA/CA
D. Mossburg, PMAS (EDO# 003657
w/cy of incoming

PD4/LA
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PG:scb