

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

March 21, 1988

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The Honorable Henry R. Gonzalez United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

This is in response to your letters of February 18 and March 17, 1988, in which you expressed concern about the safety of the South Texas Project and requested that a special investigation be performed before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) considers licensing the plant. Your concerns are specifically directed toward the manner in which the NRC has investigated allegations received through the Government Accountability Project (GAP).

I would like to assure you that the GAP allegations have been investigated extensively and in detail. Following the Court decision denving enforcement of the subpoena for South Texas safety allegations, members of the NRC staff have worked cooperatively with representatives of the Government Accountability Project (GAP) to establish a means for obtaining as much information as possible on allegations made about construction deficiencies at the South Texas Project and to protect the identities of those individuals who wanted to remain anonymous. Once a framework for meeting these objectives was established, with GAP's full knowledge, the staff proceeded to obtain specific information regarding the allegations. Technical experts reviewed all of the information made available by GAP, including documents and tapes of interviews with individuals. GAP arranged, and NRC staff conducted, separate interviews to obtain more information from some of those who had made allegations. Following this, the staff conducted an inspection at the South Texas site to determine the safety significance of the allegations. The site inspection was completed during the week of January 18, 1988. A copy of the report prepared by the site inspection team and published as NUREG-1306, on March 14, 1988, has been provided to your staff. This report explains why staff believes its inspection has addressed all safety concerns raised in the GAP allegations. The report concludes that ". . . the review of all the GAP allegations has identified no substantive safety issue that would warrant delay in the Commission's consideration of a full-power license for the South Texas Project, Unit 1."

In your March 17, 1988 letter, you specifically expressed concerns, based on your review of the site inspection report, that certain wrongdoing issues, which were referred to the Office of Investigations for complete evaluation, had not been adequately addressed to allow a licensing decision. The site inspection team did, however, review each of these allegations to determine their safety significance. Any matter which had safety significance was included within the allegations evaluated by the site inspection team. Many of these wrongdoing allegations involved no safety content, however. They

Originated: NRR: Karambi

8803290022 880321 PDR COMMS NRCC CORRESPONDENCE PDR dealt with such things as wasted money, theft, personnel matters, and drug testing. Furthermore, in reviewing all of these allegations for safety significance, the inspection team identified no trends or patterns indicative of management breakdown in ensuring the quality of the South Texas installation.

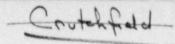
The Commission has scheduled a public meeting to consider a full-power operating license for South Texas Unit 1 on March 21, 1988 at 2:00 p.m. During the meeting, the staff will brief the Commission on its findings regarding the safety significance of the GAP allegations.

I hope this information will resolve your concerns about the safety of the South Texas Project.

Sincerely,

Lando W. Zech J.

PRATADIC.





NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

ACTION

FROM:

REP. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

DUE: 03/09/88

DOC DT: 02/18/88

1CT

CHAIRMAN ZECH

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

CHAIRMAN .

** PRIORITY **

SECY NO: 88-151

DESC:

EXPRESSES CONCERN WITH THE SAFETY OF THE SOUTH TEXAS NUCLEAR PLANT AND REQUEST THAT NRC CONDUCT A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SAFETY OF THE STNP BEFORE LICENSING

DATE: 02/29/88 ASSIGNED TO: NRR

CONTACT: MURLEY

STELLO

TAYLOR REHM MURRAY HAYES

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER:

CRC-88-0151

LOGGING DATE: Feb 24 88

ACTION OFFICE:

EDO

AUTHOR:

H.B. Gonzalez

AFFILIATION:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LETTER DATE:

Feb 18 88 FILE CODE: ID&R-5 SO TX

SUBJECT:

Expressed concern with the safety of the South Texas Nuc Plant and req the Comm to conduct a special investigation of the safety of the STNP

before licensing

ACTION:

Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION:

RF, OCA to Ack, Docket

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

NOTES:

DATE DUE:

Mar 9 88

SIGNATURE: AFFILIATION:

DATE SIGNED:

Rec'd Off, EDO

Date __ 2-26-88

330,0 Time_