



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

March 21, 1988

Distribution:  
Docket File  
TMurley/JSniezek  
DR4A/JCollins  
VStello  
JTaylor PKadambi  
TRehm BHayes  
JMurray PShea  
NRC PDR  
Local PDR  
EDO 3527  
PD4 R/f  
GPA/CA  
DMossburg  
PNoonan  
DCrutchfield  
SECY

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 denying 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:Kadambi

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, Jr.*  
Lando W. Zech, Jr.

PRASAD K.

Crutchfield



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

**ACTION**

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL  
-----

**FROM:**  
REP. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

**DUE:** 03/09/88

**EDO CONTROL:** 003527  
**DOC DT:** 02/18/88  
**FINAL REPLY:**

**TO:**  
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

**ROUTING:**  
STELLO  
TAYLOR  
REHM  
MURRAY  
HAYES

**DATE:** 02/29/88  
**ASSIGNED TO:** NRR

**CONTACT:** MURLEY

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:**

