



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

PDR

April 8, 1988

The Honorable Mickey Leland
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Leland:

This is in response to your letter of March 16, 1988, in which you expressed concern about the safety of the South Texas Project. Your concerns are specifically directed toward the manner in which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has investigated allegations received through the Government Accountability Project (GAP).

The Commission voted to permit the staff to grant an operating license for South Texas on March 21, 1988. I would like to assure you that, as indicated in the Safety Significance Assessment Team Report, the GAP allegations were investigated extensively and in detail prior to that decision.

In your March 16, 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. However, many of these wrongdoing allegations involved no safety content. They dealt with such things as wasted money, theft, personnel matters, and drug testing. The NRC recognizes that in pursuing allegations such as these there is always the possibility that information will be uncovered that has some bearing on safety. It is in that context that the report indicated that ". . . the NRC technical staff will further review the safety significance of any technical concern spun from these investigations." Furthermore, in reviewing all of these allegations for safety significance, the inspection team identified no trends or patterns

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indicative of management breakdown in ensuring the quality of the South Texas installation. The Commission decision to grant South Texas a full power license was based on a determination that all allegations that had a realistic potential to impact on safety had been thoroughly investigated and resolved.

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.