



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

September 28, 1998

EA 98-451

William T. Cottle, President and
Chief Executive Officer
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-498/98-08; 50-499/98-08

Dear Mr. Cottle:

On September 5, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, your conduct of activities at the South Texas Project facilities was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and careful radiological work controls.

During this inspection period, your staff identified that inservice tests were missed for 21 check valves required to perform a containment isolation function. Your ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code testing program failed to adequately track individual testing requirements. The NRC exercised enforcement discretion in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy (NUREG 1600 Revision 1) on August 28, 1998, to permit additional time to test the affected valves in order to avoid an unnecessary plant shutdown.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Tapia, Chief
Project Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

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PDR ADOCK 05000498
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Docket Nos.: 50-498
50-499
License Nos.: NPF-76
NPF-80

Enclosure:
NRC inspection Report
50-498/98-08; 50-499/98-08

cc w/enclosure:
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Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

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State of Texas
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Austin, Texas 78756

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Texas Public Utility Commission
William B. Travis Building
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John Howard, Director
Environmental and Natural Resources Policy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Judge, Matagorda County
Matagorda County Courthouse
1700 Seventh Street
Bay City, Texas 77414

E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
 E-Mail report to D. Lange (DJL)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
 E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
 E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

bcc to DCD (1001)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/A)
 Project Engineer (DRP/A)
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
 G. Michael Vasquez, Acting EO
 J. Lieberman, OE, MS: 7-H5

Resident Inspector
 DRS-PSE
 MIS System
 RIV File
 R. Bachmann, OGC (MS: 15-B-18)
 W. L. Brown, RC
 OE:EA File, MS: 7-H5

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RIV:RI	RI	SRI	Acting EO	C:DRP/A
GLGuerra*	WCSifre*	NFO'Keefe*	GMVasquez*	JITapia
9/25/98 (E)	9/28/98 (T)	9/28/98 (T)	9/25/98	9/28/98

*previously concurred

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