



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

October 1, 1998

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; 499/98-13

Dear Mr. Cottle:

Thank you for your letter of September 14, 1998, in response to the exercise weakness identified in NRC Inspection Report 50-498; 499/98-13, dated August 14, 1998. We have reviewed your reply and find it responsive to the concerns raised in our inspection report. We will review the implementation of your corrective actions during a future inspection.

Sincerely,

Blaine Murray, Chief
Plant Support Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-498

50-499

License Nos.: NPF-76

NPF-80

cc:

Lawrence E. Martin, Vice President
Nuclear Assurance & Licensing
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

A. Ramirez/C. M. Canady
City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78704

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Q PDR

STP Nuclear Operating Company

-2-

Mr. M. T. Hardt/Mr. W. C. Gunst
City Public Service Board
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, Texas 78296

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P.O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77251

Jon C. Wood
Matthews & Branscomb
One Alamo Center
106 S. St. Mary's Street, Suite 700
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3692

Jack R. Newman, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-5869

Mr. G. E. Vaughn/Mr. C. A. Johnson
Central Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 289
Mail Code: N5012
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

INPO
Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

Bureau of Radiation Control
State of Texas
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Mr. Jim Calloway
Texas Public Utility Commission
William B. Travis Building
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78701-3326

STP Nuclear Operating Company

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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

DISTRIBUTION w/copy of licensee's letter dated September 14, 1998:

- DCD (IE35)
- Regional Administrator
- STP Resident Inspector
- DRS Director
- DRS Deputy Director
- DRP Director
- DRS-PSB
- Branch Chief (DRP/A)
- Project Engineer (DRP/A)
- Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
- R. Bachmann, OGC (MS: 15-B-18)
- MIS System
- RIV File

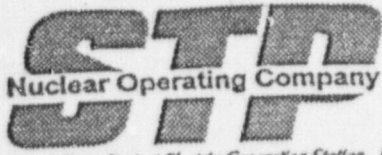
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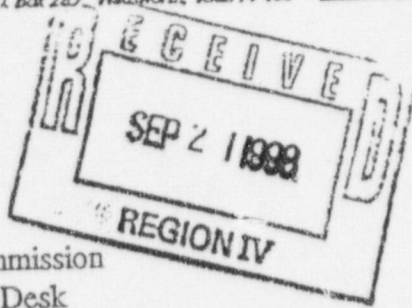
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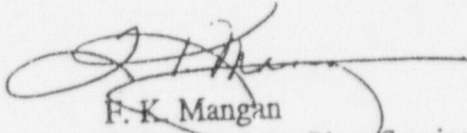
September 14, 1998
NOC-AE-000287
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10CFR2.201
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555

South Texas Project
Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498; STN 50-499
Reply to Inspection Report 98-13

South Texas Project has reviewed Inspection Report 50-498; 499/98-13 dated August 14, 1998, and submits the attached requested reply. The only commitments contained in this correspondence are located in the Corrective Actions section of the attachment.

If there are any questions regarding these replies, please contact Mr. W. E. Mookhoek at (512) 972-7274 or me at (512) 972-7528.


F. K. Mangan
Vice President, Plant Services

WEM/wem

Attachments: Reply to Inspection Report 98-13

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Ellis W. Merschhoff
Regional Administrator, Region IV
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Thomas W. Alexion
Project Manager, Mail Code 13H3
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Cornelius F. O'Keefe
Sr. Resident Inspector
c/o U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 910
Bay City, TX 77404-0910

J. R. Newman, Esquire
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5869

M. T. Hardt/W. C. Gunst
City Public Service
P. O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296

A. Ramirez/C. M. Canady
City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78704

Jon C. Wood
Matthews & Branscomb
One Alamo Center
106 S. St. Mary's Street, Suite 700
San Antonio, TX 78205-3692

Institute of Nuclear Power
Operations - Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339-5957

Richard A. Ratliff
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom
Houston Lighting & Power Co.
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, TX 77251

Central Power and Light Company
ATTN: G. E. Vaughn/C. A. Johnson
P. O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5012
Wadsworth, TX 77483

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Reply to Inspection Report 98-13

I. Statement of Request:

During an NRC inspection conducted on August 4-7, 1998, a weakness was identified in the South Texas Project implementation of the emergency plan. The exercise weakness involved the failure to recognize that a dose projection indicated the need to make protective action recommendations beyond ten (10) miles. South Texas Project was requested to provide the corrective actions and schedule for completion of the actions to the commission.

II. Causes of the Weakness:

• Ineffective Communications

The Dose Assessor completed a dose assessment as soon as possible once the release commenced. This dose assessment was signed by the Dose Assessor and delivered to the Radiological Director as the initial dose assessment for the release. The Dose Assessor recognized the thyroid dose at 10 miles exceeded Protective Action Guidelines, however, this was not clearly communicated to the Radiological Director.

• Job Performance Standards Not Adequately Defined

Between the initial dose assessment and the time the supplemental Offsite Message was transmitted, two additional dose assessments were performed, which were not required to be transmitted to the Radiological Director. The Radiological Director examined the supplemental Offsite Message prior to its submittal to the Emergency Director for signature. A lack of questioning attitude was displayed when the Radiological Director only checked the accuracy of transcription of the dose projection values on the form and did not ensure Protective Action Recommendations were provided for all locations that exceeded Protective Action Guidelines.

• Insufficient Dose Assessment Equipment

When the dose exceeds Protective Action Guidelines at ten miles, the preprinted Protective Action Recommendations on the STAMPEDE dose assessment report are incomplete in that no Protective Action Recommendations for areas beyond 10 miles are included. The only visual clue to the Radiological Director that the Protective Action Recommendations were not appropriate was the dose of 5.285 rem CDE at 10 miles printed on the report.

Corrective Actions:

1. Refresher training will be provided for Radiological Directors, Assistant Radiological Directors and Dose Assessors in the expectations and requirements for providing protective action recommendations based on projected dose. Proper communication standards will be included. This action will be completed by November 30, 1998.
2. Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures will be revised to verify the Protective Action Recommendations beyond the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone. This action will be completed by November 30, 1998.
3. An independent peer review of the dose projection process in the Emergency Operating Facility was performed to identify further process improvements.
4. The STAMPEDE code will be improved to provide a visual cue when projected doses exceed Protective Action Guidelines. This action will be completed by February 15, 1999.