Mr. William T. Cottle
President and Chief Executive Officer
STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

October 15, 1998

RE-ISSUED INTERNAL ONLY 10/27/98

SUBJECT:

10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX R, DEVIATION REQUEST FOR FIRE AREA 07,

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (STP) (TAC NOS. M92177 AND

M92178)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

By letter dated September 14, 1995 (superseding a letter dated April 13, 1995), supplemented by letters dated November 6, 1996, May 22, and August 4, 1997, Houston Lighting and Power submitted a request for deviation from its approved fire protection program as it incorporates Section III.G.2.c of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50 for fire area 07 to the extent that it specifies that an automatic fire suppression system be provided in the area. The request has been adopted by STP Nuclear Operating Company. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the request and has concluded that the change to the approved fire protection program does not adversely affect the abilty to achieve and maintain safe shutdown in the event of fire and, therefore, does not require prior approval of the Commission under Paragraph 2.E of the licenses. Our safety evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager Project Directorate IV-1 Division of Reactor Projects III/IV Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure: As stated

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