

South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

November 19, 1997 NOC-AE-0017 File No.: G03.03

10CFR50

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

> South Texas Project Units 1 and 2 Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499 Results of Control Red Testing in Response to NRC Bulletin 96-01

- References: 1) NRC Bulletin 96-01 dated March 8, 1996, "Control Rod Insertion Problems"
  - 2) Letter from T. H. Cloninger to the U. S. Regulatory Commission dated April 4, 1996, "Response to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Bulletin 96-01." (ST-HI-AE-5333)

Attached are the South Texas Project's results for:

- Unit 1 end of Cycle 7 (hot, full flow) rod drop testing performed on Septem<sup>2</sup> or 13, 1997 (Attachment 1):
- Unit 1 beginning of Cycle 8 (cold) rod drop testing performed on September 28, 1997 (Attachment 2);
- Unit 1 beginning of Cycle 8 (hot, full flow) rod drop testing performed on October 3, 1997 (Attachment 3); and
- Unit 1 Spent Fuel Pool fuel assembly drag testing performed in July 1997 (Attachment 4).

Unit 1 tripped from full power on November 10, 1997 with a cycle burnup of 1220 MWD/MTU. All control and shutdown rods fully inserted to rod bottom following the reactor trip.

A core map is provided in Attachment 5 to assist in understanding the test data provided. In addition, Attachment 6 is provided to show the current Unit 1 specific core design data.

Attachment 7 is the South Texas Project's Units 1 and 2 restart evaluation criteria for any rod drop testing performed from now until the end of June, 1998.



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NOC-AE-0017 File No: G03.03 Page 2

A chronological history of correspondence regarding NRC Bulletin 96-01 and subsequent testing between the South Texas Project and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is provided in Attachment 8.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Mr. R. F. Dunn at (512) 972-7743 or me at (512) 972-7795.

D. A. Leazay

Director,

Nuclear Fuel and Analysis

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#### Attachments:

- . Unit 1 September 13, 1997, End of Cycle 7, Hot Rod Drop Test Results
- Unit 1 September 28, 1997, Beginning of Cycle 8, Cold Rod Drop Test Results
- 3. Unit 1 October 3, 1997, Beginning of Cycle 8, Hot Rod Drop Test Results
- 4. Unit 1 Fuel Assembly Drag Test Results
- 5. Core Map of Control Rod Locations
- 6. Unit 1 Cycle 8 Core Design Data
- 7. Units 1 and 2 Incomplete RCCA Insertion Evaluation Criteria
- 8. NRC Bulletin 96-01 Correspondence Table

NOC-AE-0017 File No.: G03.03 Page 3

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

#### Unit 1 September 13, 1997 End of Cycle 7, Hot Rod Drop Test Results

Rod drop time testing was performed on all 57 control rods. The plant was in Mode 3 with the Reactor Coolant System temperature greater than 561°F and four reactor coolant pumps running. Three rods stopped at 6 steps from rod bottom based on Digital Rod Position Indication (N-9, M-8, and F-10)\*, three rods stopped at 12 steps from rod bottom (C-9, F-8, and K-8)\*\*, one rod stopped between 23 and 30 steps from rod bottom (C-7)\*\*\*, and all other rods fully inserted. The average rod drop time was slightly higher than previous testing performed this cycle, and the test data showed a notable dashpot entry time increase of 0.22 seconds at core location C-7 since the last rod drop test performed on June 28, 1997. Test results satisfied all Technical Specification and safety evaluation limits during the test.

Core Loc	Fuel ID	B/U 9/13/97 (GWD/MTU)	DE Time (sec)	Recoils	Core Loc	Fuel ID	B/U 9/13/97 (GWD/MTU)	DE Time (sec)	Recoils
Cycle	B/U →	16.46		Tamounis, in	Cycle	B/U →	16.46		<u> </u>
	SA		***************************************			A		************	
D-2	G04	37.8	1.581	2	E-5	H34	35.4	1.616	0
B-12	G13	37.9	1.581	2	E-11	H31	35.5	1.600	0
M-14	G11	37.8	1.612	2	L-11	H35	35.5	1.578	0
P-4	G21	37.7	1.579	2	L-5	H30	35.4	1.616	0
B-4	G28	37.4	1.600	3	H-6	H45	36.7	1.730	0
D-14	G03	38.1	1.592	2	F-8**	H46	36.7	1.746	0
P-12	G09	37.5	1.590	2	H-10	H48	36.7	1.616	0
M-2	G34	37.7	1.617	2	K-8**	H47	36.7	1.745	0
	SB	***************************************	**********	harring and a few control		В			
G-3	H08	34.9	1.595	2	F-2	J40	20.2	1.575	2
C-9**	H05	34.9	1.794	0	B-10	J45	20.2	1.678	1
J-13	H12	35.0	1.594	2	K-14	J42	20.2	1.592	2
N-7	H09	34.8	1.656	1	P-6	J41	20.2	1.563	2
C-7***	H10	35.0	2.099	0	B-6	J46	20.1	1.642	1
G-13	H07	35.0	1.649	1	F-14	J43	20.2	1.578	2
N-9*	H11	35.0	1.560	0	P-10	J44	20.2	1.561	2
J-3	H06	34.9	1.580	1	K-2	J38	20.1	1.595	2
	SC					C		***************************************	
E-3	H13	35.8	1.595	2	H-2	T57	34.0	1.615	2
C-11	H28	35.7	1.698	0	B-8	T59	34.0	1.629	9
L-13	H18	35.7	1.576	2	H-14	T60	34.0	1.634	1
N-5	H24	35.7	1.611	3	P-8	T58	34.0	1.666	0
	SD				F-6	H32	35.0	1.710	0
C-5	H23	35.8	1.631	0	F-10*	H29	35.0	1.663	0
E-13	H15	35.8	1.606	2	K-10	H36	35.1	1.584	0
N-11	H16	35.8	1.581	1	K-6	H33	35.1	1.615	1
L-3	H25	35.8	1.607	3		D	***************************************		
	SE				D-4	C34	37.6	1.588	1
H-4	H01	32.7	1.580	2	M-12	C14	38.0	1.583	1
D-8	H02	32.7	1.560	0	D-12	C24	37.8	1.584	0
H-12	H04	32.8	1.590	1	1/1-4	C16	37.9	1.555	1
M-8*	H03	32.8	1.616	0	H-8	C62	36.4	1.572	0

## Unit 1 September 28, 1997 Beginning of Cycle 8, Cold Rod Drop Test Results

Rod drop time testing was performed on all 57 control rods. The plant was in Mode 6 with the Reactor Coolant System temperature approximately 100°F, no reactor coolant pumps running, and the Reactor Coolant System water level at the vessel flange. All rods fully inserted to rod bottom. Rod drop times were comparable to lest cycle's testing performed at this condition. Test results satisfied all Technical Specification and safety evaluation limits during the test.

Core	Fuel ID	B/U 9/28/97 (GWD/MTU)	DE Time (sec)	Recoils	Core Loc	Fuel ID	B/U 9/28/97 (GWD/MTU)	DE Time (sec)	Recoils
Cycle	B/U →	0.0			Cycle	B/U →	0.0	Nivillana	
	SA	***************************************				A	*******************		
D-2	K40	0.0	1.064	5	E-5	K18	0.0	1.059	5
B-12	K37	0.0	1.061	5	E-11	K31	0.0	1.063	5
M-14	K44	0.0	1.052	5	L-11	K17	0.0	1.066	5
P-4	K41	0.0	1.063	5	L-5	K33	0.0	1.061	5
B-4	K42	0.0	1.064	5	H-6	A40	11.5	1.044	4
D-14	K39	0.0	1.047	5	F-8	A06	11.5	1.044	4
P-12	K43	0.0	1.058	5	H-10	A02	11.5	1.046	3
M-2	K38	0.0	1.071	6	K-8	A33	11.5	1.037	4
	SB	***************************************				В			
G-3	K24	0.0	1.056	6	F-2	K63	0.0	1.048	5
C-9	K28	0.0	1.060	5	B-10	K62	0.0	1.053	4
J-13	K35	0.0	1.051	5	K-14	K61	0.0	1.053	5
N-7	K29	C.0	1.046	4	P-6	K58	0.0	1.039	6
C-7	K30	0.0	1.062	6	B-6	K59	0.0	1.053	4
G-13	K34	0.0	1.066	6	F-14	K57	0.0	1.046	5
N-9	K27	0.0	1.066	6	P-10	K45	0.0	1.056	4
J-3	K19	0.0	1.070	5	K-2	K47	0.0	1.061	5
	SC	3		***************************************		С			
E-3	K72	0.0	1.048	5	H-2	K02	0.0	1.057	5
C-11	K76	0.0	1.056	5	B-8	K07	0.0	1.056	5
L-13	K74	0.0	1.055	4	H-14	K03	0.0	1.060	5
N-5	K78	0.0	1.060	4	P-8	K06	0.0	1.055	5
	SD				F-6	K82	0.0	1.063	5
C-5	K79	0.0	1 044	6	F-10	K84	0.0	1.055	5
E-13	K75	0.0	1.047	4	K-10	K83	0.0	1.046	5
N-11	K71	0.0	1.053	6	K-6	K81	0.0	1.048	5
L-3	K70	0.0	1.047	5		D			
	SE		***************************************		D-4	A01	11.4	1.047	4
H-4	K73	0.0	1.051	6	M-12	A08	11.4	1.049	4
D-8	K80	0.0	1.049	5	D-12	A58	11.4	1.056	4
H-12	K77	0.0	1.047	5	M-4	A38	11.4	1.055	4
M-8	K69	0.0	1.051	5	H-8	A13	11.5	1.054	5

## Unit 1 October 3, 1997 Beginning of Cycle 8, Hot Rod Drop Test Results

Rod drop time testing was performed on all 57 control rods. The plant was in Mode 3 with the Reactor Coolant System temperature greater than 561°F and four reactor coolant pumps running. All rods fully inserted to rod bottom. Rod drop times were comparable to last cycle's testing performed at this condition. Test results satisfied all Technical Specification and safety evaluation limits during the test.

Core Loc	Fuel ID	B/U 10/3/97 (GWD/MTU)	DE Time (sec)	Recoils	Core Loc	Fuel ID	B/U 10/3/97 (GWD/MTU)	DE Time (sec)	Recoils
Cycle	B/U →	0.0	International Property of the Control of the Contro	Processor and Processor	Cycle	B/U →	0.0		***************************************
	SA	Accountance (secretary)				A	***************************************		
D-2	K40	0.0	1.625	4	E-5	K18	0.0	1.590	4
B-12	K37	0.0	1.632	6	E-11	K31	0.0	1.579	4
M-14	K44	0.0	1.665	5	L-11	K17	0.0	1.575	4
P-4	K41	0.0	1.610	5	L-5	K33	0.0	1.589	5
B-4	K42	0.0	1.624	5	H-6	A40	11.5	1.606	3
D-14	K39	0.0	1.537	5	F-8	A06	11.5	1.590	3
P-12	K43	0.0	1.631	5	H-10	A02	11.5	1.574	3
M-2	K38	0.0	1.664	5	K-8	A33	11.5	1.593	3
	SB			1		В			harantana.
G-3	K24	0.0	1.583	5	F-2	K63	0.0	1.594	5
C-9	K28	0.0	1.559	5	B-10	Y.62	0.0	1.383	5
J-13	K35	0.0	1.592	5	K-14	K61	0.0	1.609	5
N-7	K29	0.0	1.586	5	P-6	K58	0.0	1.587	5
C-7	K30	0.0	1.582	5	B-6	K59	0.0	1.600	5
G-13	K34	0.0	1.604	6	F-14	K57	0.0	1.591	5
N-9	K27	0.0	1.574	5	P-10	K45	0.0	1.593	5
J-3	K19	0.0	1.587	5	K-2	K47	0.0	1.617	5
	SC					C			
E-3	k72	0.0	1.605	5	H-2	K02	0.0	1.587	5
C-11	K76	0.0	1.587	5	B-8	K07	0.0	1.588	5
L-13	K74	0.0	1.605	5	H-14	K03	0.0	1.619	5
N-5	K78	0.0	1.609	5	P-8	K06	0.0	1.578	5
	SD				F-6	K82	0.0	1.586	4
C-5	K79	0.0	1.604	5	F-10	K84	0.0	1.584	4
E-13	K75	0.0	1.584	4	K-10	K83	0.0	1.592	5
N-11	K71	0.0	1.603	5	K-6	K81	0.0	1.622	4
L-3	K70	0.0	1.620	5	minimus mini	D		*************	
	SE				D-4	A01	11.4	1.590	3
H-4	K73	0.0	1.577	5	M-12	A08	11.4	1.604	3
D-8	K80	0.0	1.554	5	D-12	A58	11.4	1.607	3
H-12	K77	0.0	1.578	4	M-4	A38	11.4	1.603	3
M-8	K69	0.0	1.555	5	H-8	A13	11.5	1.584	4

#### Unit 1 Fuel Assembly Drag Test Results

Drag testing of once-burned Unit 1 Cycle 8 rodded fuel assemblies was performed in the Spent Fuel Pool prior to the 1RE07 refueling outage in July 1997. Drag testing was performed using a new control rod with the control rod being inserted and withdrawn in the host assembly while recording drag data from a calibrated load cell. For the assemblies below, there was minimal drag above the dashpot. The drag force data was transmitted to Westinghouse for a cycle-specific drag-work analysis. The results of the analysis are shown below. The criteria used for excessive drag w., 2500 inch-pounds, and is based on fuel vendor recommendations (reference WCAP 14802, "GroBow, F/A Growth, and Guide Thimble Bow Model").

Unit 1 Thimble		ag-Work (in-l	
Fuel Assembly	Measured BOC-8	Expected Cycle 8 increase	Expected EOC-8
A01	845	452	1297
A02	1015	376	1391
A06	1270	376	1646
A08	1357	452	1809
A13	845	866	1711
A33	1440	376	1816
A38	713	452	1165
A40	1015	376	1391
A58	1098	452	1550
A52*	930	772	1702
A53*	1100	772	1872
A57*	1100	772	1872
A64*	1100	772	1872

<sup>\*</sup>Not loaded in the Unit 1 Cycle 8 core

### Core Map of Control Red Locations

В	SC	SA D	SD A	В	SB	C SE	SB	В	SC A	SA D	SD	SA B
B S		D			SB	SE	SB				SD	SA
B S				C	SB	SE	SB	С		D	SD	SA
B S			A	С				C	A	D	SD	
B			A	С		^		С	A		SD	В
S	SB			C		٨		С				В
	SB							A CAROLINESS DE SENSO	THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF	THE R. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING, MICH.	Name and Address of the Owner, where the Owner, which the	Annual State of the last of th
C			AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON								SB	
		SE		Α		D		A		SE		С
S	SB										SB	
В				C		Α		С				В
S	SD		A						A		SC	
A		D				SE				D	·	SA
			SC		SB		SB		SD			
		SA		В		С		В		SA		announce of
	S	SD A	SD	SD A A D SC	SD A A D SC	SD A A D SC SB	SD A SE SC SB	SD A SE SC SB SB	SD A SE SC SB SB	SD A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	SD         A         A         A           A         D         SE         B           SC         SB         SB         SD	SD A SC A D SE B SD SC SB SB SD

SA - Shutdown Bank A

A - Control Bank A

SB - Shutdown Bank B

B - Control Bank B

SC - Shutdown Bank C

C - Control Bank C

SD - Shutdown Bank D

D - Control Bank D

SE - Shutdown Bank E

# Unit 1 Core Design Data

Core	Fuel ID	B/U BOC	B/U EOC	Core Loc	Fuel ID	B/U BOC	B/U EOC
	B/U →	0.0	18.5*		B/U →	0.0	18.5*
			(GWD/MTU)	Cycle	Li C		(GWD/MTU
		SA				A	
D-2	K40	0.0	15.8	E-5	K18	0.0	24.3
B-12	K37	0.0	15.9	E-11	K31	0.0	24.3
N:-14	K44	0.0	15.9	L-11	K17	0.0	24.3
P-4	K41	0.0	15.9	L-5	K33	0.0	24.3
B-4	K42	0.0	15.9	H-6	Asi	11.5	25.9
D-14	K39	0.0	15.7	F-8	A06	11.5	25.9
P-12	K43	0.0	15.8	H-10	A02	11.5	25.9
M-2	K38	0.0	15.9	K-8	A33	11.5	25.9
		SB				В	*******************
G-3	K24	0.0	24.3	F-2	K63	0.0	21.0
C-9	K28	0.0	24.3	B-10	K62	0.0	21.0
J-13	K35	0.0	24.3	K-14	K61	0.0	20.9
N-7	K29	0.0	24.3	P-6	K58	0.0	21.0
C-7	K30	0.0	24.3	B-6	K59	0.0	20.9
G-13	K34	0.0	24.3	F-14	K57	0.0	20.9
N-9	K27	0.0	24.3	P-10	K45	0.0	20.9
J-3	K19	0.0	24.3	K-2	K47	0.0	20.9
		SC				C	
E-3	K72	0.0	24.1	H-2	K02	0.0	21.3
C-11	K76	0.0	24.1	B-8	K07	0.0	21.3
L-13	K74	0.0	24.1	H-14	K03	0.0	21.3
N-5	K78	0.0	24.2	P-8	K06	0.0	21.3
		SD		F-6	K82	0.0	24.5
C-5	K79	0.0	24.1	F-10	K84	0.0	24.5
E-13	K75	0.0	24.1	K-10	K83	0.0	24.5
N-11	K71	0.0	24.1	K-6	K81	0.0	24.5
L-3	K70	0.0	24.1			D	******************
		SE		D-4	A01	11.4	26.6
H-4	K73	0.0	24.9	M-12	A08	11.4	26.6
D-8	K80	0.0	24.9	D-12	A58	11.4	26.6
H-12	K77	0.0	24.9	M-4	A38	11.4	26.7
M-8	K69	0.0	24.9	H-8	A13	11.5	27.8

<sup>\*</sup> EOC burnup assumes no coastdown operations

Unit 1 Cycle 8 Rodded Fuel Assembly Data (14 foot active fuel)				
"A" Region Standard Assemblies	"K" Region V+ P+ Assemblies			
10 Inconel grids	2 Inconel top/bottom grids, 1 inconel debris protection bottom rid, 8 ZIRLO™ mid grids			
Zircaloy-4 guide tubes	ZIRLO™ guide tubes			
Guide tube ID (above da hpot) = 0.450 inches	Guide tube ID (above dashpot) = 0.442 inches			
Guide tube ID (dashpot) = 0.397 inches	Guide tube ID (dashpot) = 0.397 inches			

### Units 1 and 2 Incomplete RCCA Insertion (IRI) Evaluation Criteria for Rod Drop Testing Performed through June 1998

Delta Rod Drop Time (Rod Drop Time Increase Since Last Test)

Tech Spec Limit	Review Limit	Immediate Restart Limit
not applicable	≤ 0.3 sec	≤ 0.1 sec

Rod Drop Time (Technical Specification 3.1.3.4)

Tech Spec Limit	Review Limit	Immediate Restart Limit
≤ 2.8 sec	≤ 2.0 sec	≤ 1.8 sec

Shutdown Margin (Technical Specification 3.1.1.1) - Applicable for no-load Tavg\*

	Safety Evaluation (SE) Limit	Review Limit	Immediate Restart Limit
Category 1	56 RCCAs ≤ 11 steps	12 RCCAs ≤ 6 steps	No IRI
Category 2	20 RCCAs ≤ 16 steps	3 RCCAs ≤ 12 steps  plus 6 RCCAs ≤ 6 steps	No IRI
Category 3	12 RCCAs ≤ 22 steps	1 RCCA ≤ 18 steps  plus 6 RCCAs ≤ 6 steps	No IRI

<sup>\*</sup>All Shutdown Margin limits assume the highest reactivity worth rod is fully withdrawn. Refer to USQEs 97-0033 (Unit 1 Cycle 8) and 97-0102 (Unit 2 Cycle 6) for further category details. Rod positions for the Review and Immediate Restart limits are based on DRPI indication and account for DRPI system uncertainty (± 4 steps).

#### Actions Based on Incomplete RCCA Insertion Condition

	Criteria***	Actions
Case 1	ALL Immediate Restart Limits met.	Startup Unit     No additional short term actions     Communicate results to the NRC
Case 2	ANY Immediate Restart Limit NOT met, but ALL Review Limits met	1. Startup Unit 2. Review data and evaluate reducing the burnup interval prior to the next rod drop test. Evaluate revision of shutdown margin calculations. Complete within 2 weeks after startup.  3. Communicate results to the NRC
Case 3	ANY Review Limit NOT met, but ALL Safety Evaluation Limits met	Brief NRC of test results and any planned actions prior to restart     Startup Unit
Case 4	ANY Safety Evaluation Limit NOT met	Evaluate data and revise the Safety     Evaluation or reconfigure reactor core     Inform NRC

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Criteria applies to Rod Drop Time limits and a single Category of Shutdown Margin limits.

Attachment 8 NOC-AE-0017 Page 1 of 1

## NRC Bulletin 95-01 Correspondence Table

DATE	TO	FROM	SUBJECT	LETTER #
March 8, 1996	All Licensees	NRC	NRC Bulletin 96-01 "Control Rod Insertion Problems"	
April 4, 1996	NRC	STP (T. H. Cloninger)	Response to NRC Bulletin 96-01 - Control Rod Insertion Problems	ST-HL-AE-5333
June 5, 1996	STP	NRC	Public Meeting to Discuss Incomplete Control Rod Insertion	
July 3, 1996	NRC	STP (D. A. Leazar)	Results of Control Rod Testing in Response to NRC Bulletin 96-01	ST-HL-AE-5408
November 27, 1996	NRC	STP (D. A. Leaz-r)	Results of Fuel Assembly Testing In Response To NRC Bulletin 96-01	ST-HL-AE-5516
April 23, 1997	NRC	STP (M. A. McBurnett)	Results of Control Rod Testing In Response To NRC Bulletin 96-01	ST-HL-AE-5605
June 11, 1997	NRC	STP (D. A. Leazar)	Results of Unit 2 Co.:trol Rod Drop Testing Performed on May 1, 1997 in Response to NKC Bulletin 96-01	ST-HL-AE-5654
July 23, 1997	NRC	STP (D. A. Leazar)	Results of Unit 1 Control Rod Drop Testing Performed on June 28, 1997, in Response to NRC Bulletin 96-01	ST-HL-AE-5697
November 19, 1997	NRC	STP (D. A. Leazar)	Results of Control Rod Testing In Response To NRC Bulletin 96-01	NOC-AE-0017