

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

January 21, 1999

SUBJECT: INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM - RELIEF REQUEST RR-ENG-18,
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2 (TAC NO. MA0352)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

By letter dated December 22, 1997, STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) submitted a request for relief from the ASME Code, Section XI requirements, to defer Code repair of a flaw identified in the Essential Cooling Water System (ECWS) piping at the South Texas Project, Unit 2. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed the request as discussed in the enclosed Safety Evaluation.

The staff finds that the performance of an immediate Code repair would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. The staff, therefore, concludes that STPNOC's proposed alternatives to the Code requirements are authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
John N. Hannon, Project Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-499

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John N. Hannon", is written over a large, stylized, light-colored signature that is already present on the document.

John N. Hannon, Project Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-499

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. William T. Cottle
STP Nuclear Operating Company

South Texas, Units 1 & 2

cc:

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