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

July 23, 1999

SUBJECT:

Wadsworth, TX 77483

INSERVICE TESTING RELIEF REQUEST RR-56 (RR-52) - COMPONENT COOLING WATER AND SAFETY INJECTION SYSTEM CONTAINMENT ISOLATION CHECK VALVE CLOSURE TEST FREQUENCY, SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (STP) (TAC NOS. MA4211 AND MA4212)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

By letter dated November 16, 1998, STP Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) submitted relief request RR-56 for Unit 1 and RR-52 for Unit 2 for the first 10-year interval for the STP Inservice Testing (IST) Program. RR-56 (RR-52) requested relief from the ASME Section XI code requirement in order to extend testing of component cooling water and safety injection check valves for closure exercise to the same frequency as the 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J. Option B frequency (i.e., from once each refueling outage to a periodic interval based on the safety significance and historical performance of each boundary and isolation valve to ensure the integrity of the overall containment system). By letter dated February 23, 1999, STPNOC amended this request providing additional information in support of the proposed test interval.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reviewed proposed relief request RR-56 (RR-52) against the requirements of the 1983 Edition through Summer 1983 Addenda of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The staff concludes that relief request RR-56 (RR-52) is authorized for the life of STP pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) based on the alternative providing an acceptable level of quality and safety. The results of the staff's review are provided in the enclosed safety evaluation.

> Sincerely. ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1 Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning Division of Licensing Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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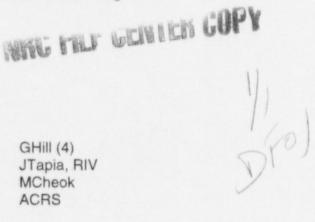
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CC:

Mr. Cornelius F. O'Keefe Senior Resident Inspector U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission P. O. Box 910 Bay City, TX 77414

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

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

Mr. G. E. Vaughn/C. A. Johnson Central Power and Light Company P. O. Box 289 Mail Code: N5012 Wadsworth, TX 74483

INPO Records Center 700 Galleria Parkway Atlanta, GA 30339-3064

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

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

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

Jack R. Newman, Esq. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius 1800 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20036-5869 Mr. J. J. Sheppard, Vice President Engineering & Technical Services STP Nuclear Operating Company P. O. Box 289 Wadsworth, TX 77483

S. M. Head, Supervisor, Licensing Quality & Licensing Department STP Nuclear Operating Company P. O. Box 289 Wadsworth, TX 77483

Office of the Governor
ATTN: John Howard, Director
Environmental and Natural
Resources Policy
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

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

Arthur C. Tate, Director
Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

Jim Calloway
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Electric Industry Analysis
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326