STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

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

South Texas Project
Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, 50-499
Notification of Completion of Actions Required by
ASME Section XI Code Case N-481

References: 1) ASME Section XI Code Case N-481, "Alternative Examination Requirements for Cast Austenitic Pump Casings, Section XI, Division 1"
2) Supplement to Inservice Inspection Plan for First Inspection Interval, HL&P to NRC, September 11, 1997 (ST-HL-AE-005737)
3) WCAP-15169, Revision 0, "A Demonstration of Applicability of ASME Code Case N-481 to the Primary Loop Pump Casings of the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Units 1 and 2"

This letter provides notification that the South Texas Project has completed the integrity evaluation of the Unit 1 and Unit 2 reactor coolant pump casings required by paragraph (d) of Code Case N-481. This notification is provided in lieu of submittal of the integrity evaluation report specified by paragraph (e) of Code Case N-481. This letter also documents successful completion of the visual examinations required by Code Case N-481, as well as the status of the remaining required examinations.

The South Texas Project adopted ASME Section XI Code Case N-481 (Reference 1) for application to the Inservice Inspection examinations of the Unit 1 and Unit 2 reactor coolant pump casings. The code case is included in Supplement No. 2 to the Unit 1 and Unit 2 Inservice Inspection Plan for the current inservice inspection interval (Reference 2). The NRC generically approved Code Case N-481 in Regulatory Guide 1.147, Revision 9.

In lieu of the volumetric examination of reactor coolant pump casing welds required by Table IWB-2500-1, Examination Category B-L-1, Item No. B12.10, Code Case N-481 allows performance of specified visual examinations and a fracture mechanics-based integrity evaluation of the reactor coolant pump casings using plant-specific material properties and pump operating histories. The integrity evaluation for the South Texas Project Unit 1 and 2 reactor coolant pump casings was performed by the Westinghouse Electric Company and is documented in WCAP-15169 (Reference 3). In accordance with NRC guidance provided to the Westinghouse Owners Group, this evaluation report is available at the South Texas Project site for NRC review.

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The VT-2 visual examinations to detect pump casing leakage required by paragraph (a) of N-481 were completed for Unit 1 and Unit 2 during the 1RE08 and 2RE06 refueling outages, respectively, with acceptable results.

The VT-1 visual examination on the external surface of one pump casing weld required by paragraph (b) of N-481 was completed for Unit 1 during the 1RE08 refueling outage with acceptable results. Records of these examinations are included with the Inservice Inspection examination records for these outages and are available on site for review. The VT-1 visual examination required by paragraph (b) of N-481 for Unit 2 is scheduled to be performed during the 2RE07 refueling outage this fall. We expect the examination results will be equally acceptable.

The VT-3 visual examinations required by paragraph (c) of N-481 have not been completed for either unit. These visual examinations are required to be performed once per inspection interval on the internal casing surfaces whenever a pump is disassembled for maintenance. None of the reactor coolant pumps has been disassembled for maintenance up to this point in the current inservice inspection interval. The VT-3 visual examinations required by paragraph (c) of N-481 will be performed on any of the reactor coolant pumps that are disassembled for maintenance during the current inservice inspection interval.

In place of a follow-up submittal, the VT-1 visual examination to be performed on the Unit 2 pump casing weld will be documented in the 2RE07 refueling outage Inservice Inspection Summary Report. VT-3 visual examinations to be performed on Unit 1 and Unit 2 reactor coolant pump internal casing surfaces will be documented in the applicable refueling outage summary reports.

If there are any questions, please contact either Mr. C. A. Murry at (361) 972-8285 or me at (361) 972-7902.

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RLB/PLW

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