

December 14, 2001

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

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RESPONSES FOR  
BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR  
PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES"  
(TAC NOS. MB2662 AND MB2663)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

On August 3, 2001, the NRC staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor plants. You were requested to provide your response to Item 1 of the bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your response by letter dated August 29, 2001. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information and that, based on this information, there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained.

As a reminder, please note that in Item 5 of the Bulletin 2001-01, the NRC staff requested the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage:

- a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;  
and

- b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

- b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
 Project Directorate IV  
 Division of Licensing Project Management  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

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June 2001