



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

September 1, 2011

Mr. Edward D. Halpin,  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –  
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION –  
UNITS 1 and 2

Dear Mr. Halpin:

On August 16, 2011, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of South Texas Project Electric Generating Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

Overall, South Texas Project Electric Generating Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at South Texas Project Electric Generating Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In the days following the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear accident in Japan, the Commission directed the staff to establish a senior-level agency task force to conduct a methodical and systematic review of the NRC's processes and regulations to determine whether the agency should make additional improvements to its regulatory system. The NRC has since completed Temporary Instruction (TI) 183, "Follow-up to Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Station Fuel Damage Event," and TI-184, "Availability and Readiness Inspection of Severe Accident Management

Guidelines (SAMGs)" at your facility. Results of these inspections can be found here: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-activities.html>. Additionally, on May 11, 2011, the agency issued NRC Bulletin 2011-01, "Mitigating Strategies," to confirm compliance with Order EA-02-026, subsequently imposed license conditions, and 10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2), and to determine the status of licensee mitigating strategies programs. On July 12, 2011, the NRC's Task Force made its recommendations to the Commission in its report, "Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century: The Near-Term Task Force Review of Insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi Accident." The Commission is currently reviewing the Task Force's recommendations to determine what additional actions may be warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 817-860-8148 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne C. Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "W" and a long horizontal line at the end.

Wayne C. Walker  
Chief, Projects Branch A  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-498, 50-499  
License: NPF-76, NPF-80

Enclosure: South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Inspection/Activity Plan

Distribution via ListServe

**South Texas Project**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012**

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	09/26/2011 10/07/2011	<b>EXAM</b> - INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM X02474	INITIAL EXAM - UNIT 1 - STP (09/2011)	5
2	09/26/2011 10/07/2011	X02475	INITIAL EXAM - UNIT 2 - STP (09/2011)	
1,2	09/19/2011 09/23/2011	<b>EP1</b> - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	1
1,2	09/19/2011 09/23/2011	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1,2	09/19/2011 09/23/2011	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1,2	09/19/2011 09/23/2011	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1,2	09/19/2011 09/23/2011	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification	
1,2	09/12/2011 09/16/2011	<b>BRQ</b> - STP BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	2
2	10/31/2011 11/11/2011	<b>PSB2-08P</b> - INSERVICE INSPECTION - 2R15 IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	2
1,2	10/31/2011 11/04/2011	<b>RS12</b> - RADIATION SAFETY IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	2
1,2	10/31/2011 11/04/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1,2	10/31/2011 11/04/2011	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1,2	10/31/2011 11/04/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
1,2	01/23/2012 01/27/2012	<b>TI-177</b> - TI-177 GAS ACCUMULATION INSPECTION IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	1
1,2	01/30/2012 02/03/2012	<b>RS5678</b> - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	4
1,2	01/30/2012 02/03/2012	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1,2	01/30/2012 02/03/2012	IP 71124.07	Radioactive Environmental Monitoring Program	
1,2	01/30/2012 02/03/2012	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
1,2	05/07/2012 05/11/2012	<b>EP-1</b> - BIENNIAL EP EXERCISE IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	3
1,2	05/07/2012 05/11/2012	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1,2	05/07/2012 05/11/2012	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
1,2	05/07/2012 05/11/2012	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
1,2	05/07/2012 05/11/2012	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
1,2	05/21/2012 05/25/2012	<b>EB1-07T</b> - HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	1

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

South Texas Project

Inspection / Activity Plan

09/01/2011 - 12/31/2012

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
		<b>TSB-52B - BIENNIAL PI&amp;R INSPECTION</b>		4
1, 2	09/16/2012 09/20/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1, 2	10/02/2012 10/06/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
		<b>RS12 - RADIATION SAFETY</b>		2
1, 2	10/22/2012 10/26/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1, 2	10/22/2012 10/26/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	10/22/2012 10/26/2012	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/22/2012 10/26/2012	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	

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