

June 5, 2002

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: BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY," 15-DAY RESPONSE FOR SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB4580 AND MB4581)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

On March 18, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, including the reactor pressure vessel head, and the extent to which inspections have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. Bulletin 2002-01 also required licensees to provide the basis for concluding that plans for future inspections of the reactor coolant pressure boundary will satisfy applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor plants. All addressees were requested to respond to Items 1.A. through E. within 15 days of the Bulletin's issuance, or to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10, Section 50.54(f), of the *Code of Federal Regulations* [10 CFR 50.54(f)] if they are unable to provide the information or they cannot meet the requested completion dates.

You provided your 15-day Bulletin response by letter dated April 2, 2002. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information, and has concluded that your plant does not appear to have conditions similar to those which lead to the degradation at Davis-Besse. However, the staff may issue questions to confirm or verify the information that was provided in your 15-day response to Bulletin 2002-01.

W. T. Cottle

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We will complete a full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01 after we review your response to Items 2 and 3 of the 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

W. T. Cottle

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We will complete a full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01 after we review your response to Items 2 and 3 of the Bulletin.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
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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April 2002

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