



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

March 4, 2009

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC  
GENERATING STATION (REPORT 05000498/2009001 AND 5000499/2009001)

Dear Mr. Halpin:

On February 10, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only – Security-Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant 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. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

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 (PARS) 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (817) 860-8249 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

George D. Replogle, Chief  
Reactor Projects Branch A  
Division of Reactor Projects

Dockets: 50-498, 50-499  
Licenses: NPF-76, NPF-80

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

cc w/Enclosure:  
The Honorable Richard Knapik  
Mayor, City of Bay City  
City Hall  
1901 Fifth Street  
Bay City, TX 77414

Gary Mathis, Sheriff  
Matagorda County  
2323 Avenue E  
Bay City, TX 77414

Richard A. Ratliff, Chief  
Dept. of State Health Services  
1100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78756-7446

William "Dub" Taylor  
State Energy Conservation Office  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, TX 78711-3528

The Honorable Joe Morton  
Mayor, City of Palacios  
P.O. Box 845  
Palacios City Hall  
Palacios, TX 77465

Jack Colley, Chief  
Governor's Division of Emergency  
Management  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0220

Julie Parsley, Commissioner  
Public Utility Commission  
William B. Travis Bldg.  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

The Honorable Nate McDonald  
Matagorda County Judge  
1700 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 301  
Bay City, TX 77414-5094

D. W. Rencurrel, Site Vice President  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Tim Powell, Vice President, Engineering  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

A. W. Harrison, Manager, Licensing  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Charles T. Bowman, General Manager,  
Oversight  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Marilyn Kistler  
Senior Staff Specialist, Licensing  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

C. Kirksey  
City of Austin  
Electric Utility Department  
721 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, TX 78704

J. J. Nesrsta/R. K. Temple/  
Ed Alercon/Kevin Pollo  
City Public Service  
P.O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, TX 78296

Jon C. Wood  
Cox, Smith, & Matthews  
112 East Pecan, Suite 1800  
San Antonio, TX 78205

A. H. Gutterman, Esq.  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

David L. Lakey, M.D.  
Texas Department of State Health Services  
P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, TX 78714-9347

Brian Almon  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Chief, Technological Hazards Branch  
FEMA Region VI  
800 North Loop 288  
Federal Regional Center  
Denton, TX 76209

Environmental and Natural Resources  
Policy Director, Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711-3189

Nate McDonald  
County Judge for Matagorda County  
1700 Seventh Street, Room 301  
Bay City, TX 77414

Anthony P. Jones, Chief Boiler Inspector  
Texas Department of Licensing and  
Regulation, Boiler Division  
E.O. Thompson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 12157  
Austin, TX 78711

Susan M. Jablonski  
Office of Permitting, Remediation and  
Registration  
Texas Commission on Environmental  
Quality  
MC-122  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Ted Enos  
4200 South Hulen, Suite 422  
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Kevin Howell/Catherine Callaway/Jim von  
Suskil  
NRG Energy, Inc.  
1301 McKinney, Suite 2300  
Houston, TX 77010

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

Louis Peter, Plant General Manager  
STP Nuclear Operating Company  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Regional Administrator (Elmo.Collins@nrc.gov)  
 DRP Director (Dwight.Chamberlain@nrc.gov)  
 DRP Deputy Director (Anton.Vegel@nrc.gov)  
 DRP Director (Roy.Caniano@nrc.gov)  
 DRP Deputy Director (Troy.Pruett@nrc.gov)  
 Senior Resident Inspector (Ron.Cohen@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRP/A (George.Replogle@nrc.gov)  
 Team Leader, DRP/TSS (Chuck.Paulk@nrc.gov)  
 RITS Coordinator (Marisa.Herrera@nrc.gov)  
 Public Affairs Officer (Victor.Dricks@nrc.gov)  
 Regional State Liaison Officer (Bill.Maier@nrc.gov)  
 RA Secretary (Lucy.Owen@nrc.gov)  
 DRA Secretary (Judy.Kilcrease@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/EB1 (Thomas.Farnholtz@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/EB2 (Neil.Keefe@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/PSB1 (Michael.Shannon@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/PSB2 (Greg.Werner@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/OB (Bernard.Stapleton@nrc.gov)  
 OEDO, TRPS (Tamara.Bloomer@nrc.gov)  
 Deputy Director, DIRS, NRR (Frederick.Brown@nrc.gov)  
 Director, DORL, NRR (Joseph.Giitter@nrc.gov)  
 Deputy Director, DORL, NRR (Timothy.McGinty@nrc.gov)  
 Chief, PLB IV, DORL, NRR (Thomas.Hiltz@nrc.gov)  
 NRR Project Manager (Mohan.Thadani@nrc.gov)  
 OEDO, RIV Coordinator Primary (Shawn.Williams@nrc.gov)  
 OEDO, RIV Coordinator Backup (Eugene.Guthrie@nrc.gov)  
 OEDO, TRPB (Stephen.Campbell@nrc.gov)  
 RidsNrrDirslpab Resource@nrc.gov  
 ROPreports.Resource@nrc.gov  
 mortenseng@INPO.org

File located: R:\\_REACTORS\EOC\EOCAssessmentLetters\2008\STP.doc

SUNSI Rev Compl.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	ADAMS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Reviewer Initials	GR
Publicly Avail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sens. Type Initials	GR
C:DRP/A	D:DRS	D:DRP	C:DRP/A signature		
GDReplogle	RJCaniano	DDChamberlain	CDReplogle		
<b>/RA/</b>	<b>/RA/</b>	<b>/RA/</b>	<b>/RA/</b>		
2/18/2009	2/18/2009	2/23/2009	2/23/2009		

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T=Telephone

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**South Texas Project**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
 03/01/2009 - 06/30/2010

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			<b>EB1-17 - 50.59 &amp; MODS</b>		<b>4</b>
1,2	03/09/2009	03/20/2009	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			<b>RP-ORS4 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA</b>		<b>1</b>
1,2	04/06/2009	04/10/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
1,2	04/06/2009	04/10/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	04/06/2009	04/10/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>EB2-07T - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1,2	06/08/2009	06/12/2009	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			<b>7111111B - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>3</b>
1,2	08/03/2009	08/07/2009	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			<b>EB1-08 - U1 INSERVICE INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>
1	10/04/2009	11/08/2009	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
1	10/04/2009	11/08/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			<b>RP-ORS5 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ACCESS</b>		<b>1</b>
1,2	10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
1,2	10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
2	10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>EP1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
1,2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1,2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing	
1,2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1,2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1,2	12/07/2009	12/11/2009	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			<b>EB1-08P - INSERVICE INSPECTION - U2</b>		<b>3</b>
2	04/05/2010	04/23/2010	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
2	04/05/2010	04/23/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	

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