



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

August 30, 2005

James J. Sheppard, President and
Chief Executive Officer
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

**SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION**

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

On August 4, 2005, the NRC staff completed its performance review of South Texas Project Electric Generating Station for the first half of the calendar year 2005 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. 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 in order for you to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390" will include the physical protection review and a resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at South Texas Project Units 1 and 2 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). Although plant performance was within the Licensee Response Column, the significance of several issues is still under review as part of the Significance Determination Process which, when finalized, may change our assessment of your plant's safety performance. These issues still under review are associated with: (1) an inoperable low temperature overpressure device at shutdown, and (2) two fire protection issues. Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2007.

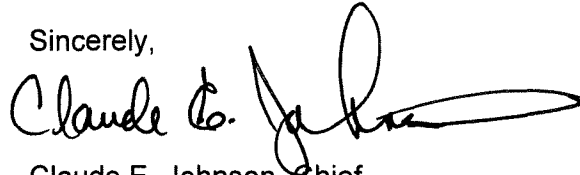
The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through March 31, 2007. In addition to the baseline inspections, we plan to conduct Temporary Instruction 2515/150, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," and Temporary Instruction 2515/160, "Pressurizer Penetration Nozzles and Steam Space Piping Connections in U.S. Pressurized Water Reactors." The inspection plan is

provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the early 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 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

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 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 the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (817) 860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,



Claude E. Johnson, Chief
Project Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure:
South Texas Project Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
E. D. Halpin
Vice President, Oversight
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

S. M. Head, Manager, Licensing
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5014
Wadsworth, TX 77483

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

J. J. Nesrsta/R. K. Temple
City Public Service Board
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296

Jack A. Fusco/Michael A. Reed
Texas Genco, LP
12301 Kurland Drive
Houston, TX 77034

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

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

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

Director, Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

Brian Almon
Public Utility Commission
William B. Travis Building
P.O. Box 13326
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701-3326

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

Judge, Matagorda County
Matagorda County Courthouse
1700 Seventh Street
Bay City, TX 77414

Terry Parks, Chief Inspector
Texas Department of Licensing
and Regulation
Boiler Program
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 630
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)
Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 100
Atlanta, GA 30339

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	OB-INIT - INITIAL EXAM		4			
1	X02291	SOUTH TEXAS UNIT 1 (11/05) INITIAL EXAM		10/24/2005	10/28/2005	Not Applicable
2	X02292	SOUTH TEXAS UNIT 2 (11/05) INITIAL EXAM		10/24/2005	10/28/2005	Not Applicable
1	X02291	SOUTH TEXAS UNIT 1 (11/05) INITIAL EXAM		11/14/2005	11/18/2005	Not Applicable
2	X02292	SOUTH TEXAS UNIT 2 (11/05) INITIAL EXAM		11/14/2005	11/18/2005	Not Applicable
	OB-RQ - OPERATOR REQUALIFICATION		2			
1,2	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		08/29/2005	09/02/2005	Baseline Inspections
	OB-EP2 - EMERG PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM INSPECTION		1			
1,2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		09/12/2005	09/16/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		09/12/2005	09/16/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		09/12/2005	09/16/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		09/12/2005	09/16/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/12/2005	09/16/2005	Baseline Inspections
	PEB-07B - HX PERFORMANCE		1			
1,2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		09/12/2005	09/16/2005	Baseline Inspections
	PEB-12B - MAINTENANCE RULE BIENNIAL		2			
1,2	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		09/19/2005	09/23/2005	Baseline Inspections
	EB08P - ISI U2 - VESS VOL (TI 150/152) AS REQ		2			
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		10/10/2005	10/14/2005	Baseline Inspections
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		10/24/2005	10/28/2005	Baseline Inspections
	TI 160 - TI 2515/160 PRSZR PENETRATION NOZZLE INS		2			
2	IP 2515/160	Pzr Pene Nozzles & Strm Space Piping Connections in U.S. PWRs [NRC Bulletin 2004-01]		10/05/2005	11/04/2005	Safety Issues
	EB21/02 - SSD&PCI/50.59		5			
1,2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		11/14/2005	11/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		11/28/2005	12/02/2005	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		11/28/2005	12/02/2005	Baseline Inspections
	RP TEAM - RP SAFETY TEAM		5			
1,2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		01/23/2006	01/27/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		01/23/2006	01/27/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		01/23/2006	01/27/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control F		01/23/2006	01/27/2006	Baseline Inspections
	ALARA1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/06/2006	02/10/2006	Baseline Inspections
	EP1 - EMERG PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE		3			
1,2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		06/07/2006	06/11/2006	Baseline Inspections

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

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
1,2	EPI	- EMERG PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE	3			
1,2	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/07/2006	06/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		06/07/2006	06/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	EB2-52B	- PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION	5			
1,2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		07/10/2006	07/14/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		07/24/2006	07/28/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	EB08	- ISI-P	1			
1	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		10/02/2006	11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	ACRSA	- ACCESS CONTROL TO RAD SIGNIFICANT AREAS	1			
1,2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/16/2006	10/20/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	EB02/17	- PERMANENT MODS/50.59	3			
1,2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		11/13/2006	11/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		11/13/2006	11/17/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	ALARA2	- ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS	1			
1,2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		12/18/2006	12/22/2006	Baseline Inspections
1,2	7111107B	- HEAT SINK INSPECTION	2			
1,2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		02/26/2007	03/02/2007	Baseline Inspections

Electronic distribution by RIV:

- Regional Administrator (**BSM1**)
- DRP Director (**ATH**)
- DRS Director (**DDC**)
- DRS Deputy Director (**KMK**)
- Senior Resident Inspector (**JXC2**)
- Branch Chief, DRP/A (**CEJ**)
- Senior Project Engineer, DRP/A (**TRF**)
- Team Leader, DRP/TSS (**RLN1**)
- RITS Coordinator (**KEG**)
- V. Dricks, PAO (**VLD**)
- W. Maier, RSLO (**WAM**)
- C. Gordon (**CJG**)
- DRS Branch Chiefs (**LJS, MPS1, REL, NFO**)
- S. Richards, Chief, NRR/DIPM/IIPB (**SAR**)
- M. Case, Deputy Dir. for Inspection and Programs (**MJC**)
- B. Sheron, Associate Dir. for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis (**BWS**)
- T. Bergman, Chief, ROPMS, OEDO (**TAB**)
- H. Berkow, Director, LPD4, NRR/DLPM (**HNB**)
- D. Terao, Chief, PDIV-1, NRR/DLPM (**DXT**)
- D. Jaffe, NRR Project Manager (**DHJ**)

SISP Review Completed: CEJ ADAMS: Yes No Initials: CEJ
 Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available Sensitive Non-Sensitive

S:\DRP\DRPDIR\Midcycle 2005\STP.wpd

RIV/SPE/DRP/A	C:DRP/A	D:DRS	D:DRP	C:DRP/A Signature
TRFarnholtz;df	CEJohnson	DDChamberlain	ATHowell, III	CEJohnson
/RA/	/RA/	KMK for	<i>ATH</i>	<i>CEJ</i>
8/23/05	8/23/05	8/25/05	8/28/05	8/29/05

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