

January 14, 2000

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 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS
RE: RELOCATION OF 18-MONTH SURVEILLANCE OF STANDBY DIESEL
GENERATOR INSPECTIONS TO THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
MANUAL (TAC NOS. MA6441 AND MA6442)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 121 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 and Amendment No. 109 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments consist of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated September 8, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated November 9, 1999.

The amendments revise TS 3/4.8.1, "A.C. Sources, Operating," and associated Bases, by deleting the 18-month surveillance to subject the standby diesel generator to inspections in accordance with procedures prepared in conjunction with its manufacturer's recommendations. This surveillance requirement has been incorporated into the South Texas Technical Requirements Manual (TRM). The TRM has been incorporated by reference into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report, assuring that future changes to the surveillance requirements will be controlled in accordance with approved station procedures and the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59.

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas W. Alexion, 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

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 121 to NPF-76
2. Amendment No. 109 to NPF-80
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 121
License No. NPF-76

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by STP Nuclear Operating Company* acting on behalf of itself and for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio (CPS), Central Power and Light Company (CPL), and the City of Austin, Texas (COA) (the licensees), dated September 8, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated November 9, 1999, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

*STP Nuclear Operating Company is authorized to act for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Central Power and Light Company, and the City of Austin, Texas, and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2. Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 121, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: January 14, 2000

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 109
License No. NPF-80

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by STP Nuclear Operating Company* acting on behalf of itself and for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio (CPS), Central Power and Light Company (CPL), and the City of Austin, Texas (COA) (the licensees), dated September 8, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated November 9, 1999, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

*STP Nuclear Operating Company is authorized to act for Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), the City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Central Power and Light Company, and the City of Austin, Texas, and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-80 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2. Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 109, and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: January 14, 2000

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NOS. 121 AND 109

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-76 AND NPF-80

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

REMOVE

3/4 8-3

3/4 8-4

B 3/4 8-7

B 3/4 8-8

INSERT

3/4 8-3*

3/4 8-4

B 3/4 8-7*

B 3/4 8-8

*Overleaf pages provided to maintain document completeness. No changes on these pages.

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 121 AND 109 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-76 AND NPF-80

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY, ET AL.

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated September 8, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated November 9, 1999, STP Nuclear Operating Company (the licensee) requested changes to the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TSs). The proposed changes would revise TS 3/4.8.1, "A.C. Sources, Operating," and associated Bases, by relocating the 18-month surveillance to subject the standby diesel generator (SDG) to inspections in accordance with procedures prepared in conjunction with its manufacturer's recommendations, to the Technical Requirements Manual (TRM).

2.0 BACKGROUND

Section 182a of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), requires that applicants for nuclear power plant operating licenses state TSs and that these TSs be included as a part of the license. The Commission's regulatory requirements related to the content of TSs are set forth in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.36. That regulation requires that the TSs include items in five specific categories, including (1) safety limits, limiting safety system settings and limiting control settings; (2) limiting conditions for operation (LCOs); (3) surveillance requirements (SRs); (4) design features; and (5) administrative controls and states also that the Commission may include additional TSs as it finds to be appropriate. However, the regulation does not specify the particular TSs to be included in a plant's license.

The regulation sets forth four criteria to be used in determining whether an LCO is required to be included in the TS, as follows: (1) installed instrumentation that is used to detect, and indicate in the control room, a significant abnormal degradation of the reactor coolant pressure boundary; (2) a process variable, design feature, or operating restriction that is an initial condition of a design-basis accident or transient analysis that either assumes the failure of or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier; (3) a structure, system, or component that is part of the primary success path and which functions or actuates to mitigate a design-basis accident or transient that either assumes the failure of or presents a challenge to the integrity of a fission product barrier; or (4) a structure, system, or component which operating experience or probabilistic risk assessment has shown to be significant to public health and safety. Existing LCOs and related surveillances included as TS requirements that

fall within or satisfy any of the criteria must be retained in the TSs, while those TS requirements that do not fall within or satisfy these criteria may be relocated to other, licensee-controlled documents.

3.0 EVALUATION

The existing TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.1 surveillance for the SDG has been relocated to the TRM. This SR subjects the SDG to an 18-month inspection in accordance with procedures prepared in conjunction with its manufacturer's recommendations for this class of standby service.

The existing TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.1, which specifies an SDG surveillance scope and frequency, does not play a direct part in meeting any of the four LCO criteria discussed above. In addition, TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.1 is a surveillance that does not directly demonstrate operability of the SDGs for compliance with the SDG LCOs (the other SDG surveillances accomplish this). TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.1 is more oriented towards maintaining SDG reliability as discussed in 10 CFR 50.63, "Loss of all alternating current power," and as such is not appropriate for inclusion in the TSs.

Since the licensee has incorporated the TRM, by reference, into the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report, changes to the TRM would be controlled in accordance with approved station procedures and the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59. The staff, therefore, finds that sufficient regulatory controls exist.

In the November 9, 1999, supplement, the licensee provided the revised TRM pages that incorporate the SRs from TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.1. The staff has reviewed the TRM changes and has verified that the information from TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.1 has been appropriately relocated. In addition, the staff notes that the Bases for TS 4.8.1.1.2.e.1, which states that the purpose of the SR is to ensure that unexpected degradation is discovered, has also been relocated to the TRM.

Accordingly, the staff has concluded that because (1) the TS requirements do not meet the 10 CFR 50.36 criteria for being included in the TSs and (2) the requirements have been relocated to the licensee's TRM, these requirements may be deleted from the TSs.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Texas State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments change a requirement with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and change surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendments involve no significant increase in the amounts and no significant change in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendments involve no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (64 FR 67341). Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to

10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: T. Alexion

Date: January 14, 2000