

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: ELIMINATION OF ACCELERATED TESTING OF THE STANDBY DIESEL
GENERATORS (TAC NOS. MA6439 AND MA6440)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 122 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-76 and Amendment No. 110 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 eliminating the requirement for accelerated testing of the standby diesel generators and the associated reporting requirements. The amendments also revise the TS Index to reflect these changes.

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. 122 to NPF-76
2. Amendment No. 110 to NPF-80
3. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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DATE	12/08/99		12/08/99		12/10/99	12/2099	12/27/99

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\AMDA6439.wpd

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

South Texas, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. Cornelius F. O'Keefe
Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 910
Bay City, TX 77414

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

Mr. M. T. Hardt
Mr. W. C. Gunst
City Public Service Board
P. O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296

Mr. G. E. Vaughn/C. A. Johnson
Central Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 289
Mail Code: N5012
Wadsworth, TX 74483

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

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011

D. G. Tees/R. L. Balcom
Houston Lighting & Power Co.
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, TX 77251

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

Jack R. Newman, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Mr. J. J. Sheppard, Vice President
Engineering & Technical Services
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

S. M. Head, Supervisor, Licensing
Quality & Licensing Department
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Office of the Governor
ATTN: John Howard, Director
Environmental and Natural
Resources Policy
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Jon C. Wood
Matthews & Branscomb
One Alamo Center
106 S. St. Mary's Street, Suite 700
San Antonio, TX 78205-3692

Arthur C. Tate, Director
Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

Jim Calloway
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Electric Industry Analysis
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

STP NUCLEAR OPERATING COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 122
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. 122, 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 90 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. 110
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. 110, 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 90 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. 122 AND 110

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

x
3/4 8-3
3/4 8-5
3/4 8-6
3/4 8-7
3/4 8-8
B 3/4 8-7

INSERT

x
3/4 8-3
3/4 8-5*
3/4 8-6
3/4 8-7
3/4 8-8
B 3/4 8-7

*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. 122 AND 110 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 eliminating the requirement for accelerated testing of the standby diesel generators (SDGs) and the associated reporting requirements. The TS Index would also be revised to reflect these changes.

The November 9, 1999, supplement provided additional clarifying information that was within the scope of the original application and *Federal Register* notice and did not change the staff's initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The proposed changes to the TSs eliminate the requirement to test the start and load capability of the SDGs more frequently than once per 31 days based on the number of test failures. The current TSs require that the SDGs be tested once per 7 days if the number of failures exceed certain numbers. The proposed TSs would eliminate the accelerated testing requirement of once per 7 days. The proposed changes would also delete the associated special reporting requirements to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 94-01, "Removal of Accelerated Testing and Special Reporting Requirements for Emergency Diesel Generators," on May 31, 1994. The generic letter indicated that licensees may request the removal of the TS provisions for accelerated testing and special reporting requirements for the SDGs provided that licensees commit to implement within 90 days a maintenance program for monitoring and maintaining SDG performance consistent with the provisions of Section 50.65 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50.65), "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," and the guidance (as applicable to SDGs) of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.160, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants." As set forth in Enclosure 1 to GL 94-01, the elements of this program will include the performance of a detailed root cause analysis of individual SDG failures, effective corrective actions taken in response to individual SDG failures, and implementation of SDG preventative maintenance

consistent with the maintenance rule. In Enclosure 1 to the generic letter, the NRC found that the above commitments will provide a program to assure SDG performance and would provide the basis for the NRC to approve a licensee request to remove the accelerated testing and special reporting requirements for SDGs from its TSs. Because licensees would continue to comply with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73 to notify NRC and report SDG failures, the staff also concluded in GL 94-01 that licensees may propose removing special reporting requirements for SDGs from their plant TSs.

3.0 EVALUATION

In the November 9, 1999, supplement, the licensee has documented that it has implemented a maintenance program for monitoring and maintaining the reliability of the SDGs that conforms to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65 and the guidance of RG 1.160. The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's commitments and found them to be consistent with the prerequisites set forth by the NRC in GL 94-01 (and discussed above in the background section) for the removal of the TS provisions for accelerated testing and special reporting requirements for the SDGs. Also, the staff has reviewed the proposed TS changes and finds them to be consistent with the changes recommended in GL 94-01. The proposed change to the Index is editorial and reflects the removal of Table 4.8-1 from the TSs. Accordingly, the staff finds that the proposed changes to the TSs are acceptable. In addition, the staff has reviewed the proposed Bases changes and finds them to be consistent with the proposed TS changes.

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

Portions of the amendments change surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that these portions of 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 59806). Accordingly, the portions of the amendments changing surveillance requirements meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). The remaining portion of the amendments change reporting requirements. Therefore, this portion of the amendments meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). 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