

September 7, 2007

Mr. James J. Sheppard
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, UNIT 1 - EVALUATION OF FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS IN SUPPORT OF ALLOY 82/182 PRESSURIZER BUTT WELD INSPECTIONS IN 2008 AS PROVIDED BY CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER NRR-07-009 (TAC NO. MD4186)

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

On March 27, 2007, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) No. NRR-07-009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML070790336) regarding dissimilar metal welds in the pressurizer surge, spray, and safety/relief nozzle-to-safe end welds at South Texas Project (STP), Unit 1. The CAL and the supporting commitment letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML070600123) indicate that inspection and mitigation actions may be conducted during your spring 2008 refueling outage, contingent on the industry providing an analysis that demonstrates an acceptable level of safety to the NRC for the operation of these welds until spring 2008. This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter dated August 6, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML072410198), informing the NRC that the analysis referred to by this CAL and the supporting commitment letter has been completed, and that the analysis is applicable to your plant.

The NRC received MRP-216, Rev. 1, "Materials Reliability Program: Advanced FEA [Finite Element Analysis] Evaluation of Growth of Postulated Circumferential PWSCC [Primary Water Stress-Corrosion Cracking] Flaws in Pressurizer Nozzle Dissimilar Metal Welds" on August 13, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML072410235). Based on our review of this report, the NRC concludes that the analysis provides adequate justification to permit inspections during your spring 2008 refueling outage, and that the analysis is applicable to STP, Unit 1. The results of the staff's review are contained in a safety assessment dated August 31, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No. ML072400199), and the associated contractor report (ADAMS Accession No. ML072470394).

Based on the above, the NRC concludes that a plant shutdown by December 31, 2007, is no longer required. Therefore, the pressurizer spray, and safety/relief nozzle-to-safe end Alloy 82/182 butt weld inspections for STP, Unit 1 must be performed prior to exiting your scheduled spring 2008 refueling outage. All other requirements of the CAL and the supporting commitment letter regarding enhanced inspection and leakage monitoring requirements for the reactor coolant system and associated reports remain valid.

J. J. Sheppard

-2-

The CAL will remain open until all CAL commitments pertaining to STP, Unit 1 are complete.

Current NRC guidance regarding CALs is contained in the NRC Enforcement Policy and the NRC Enforcement Manual, which are available at the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement.html> (click on Enforcement Policy or Enforcement Guidance) or by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-888-293-6498. The GPO is open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2, Section 390, of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Director
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-498

cc: See next page

The CAL will remain open until all CAL commitments pertaining to STP, Unit 1 are complete.

Current NRC guidance regarding CALs is contained in the NRC Enforcement Policy and the NRC Enforcement Manual, which are available at the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement.html> (click on Enforcement Policy or Enforcement Guidance) or by contacting the Government Printing Office (GPO) toll-free at 1-888-293-6498. The GPO is open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays).

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2, Section 390, of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Director
 Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-498

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	RidsNrrDorlLp4	RidsOgcRp
LPL4 R/F	RidsNrrLAJBurkhardt	DPelton, EDO RIV
RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter	RidsNrrOd	VDricks, OPA, RIV
RidsEdoMailCenter	RidsNrrPMBMoroney	WMaier, RIV SLO
RidsNrrDci	RidsNrrPMMThadani	RidsNrrDciCpnb
RidsNrrDirs	RidsRgn4MailCenter	TLupold, NRR
RidsNrrDorl	RidsOEMailCenter	ESullivan, NRR

ADAMS Accession No. ML072480004

OFFICE	DCI/CPNB	DCI/CPNB	LPL4/PM	LPL4/LA	LPL4/BC
NAME	TLupold	TChan	MThadani	JBurkhardt	Thiltz, BKS for
DATE	9/6/07	9/6/07	9/6/07	9/6/07	9/6/07
OFFICE	DCI/D	DRP/D, RGN4	DORL/D		
NAME	MEvans	DChamberlain	CHaney		
DATE	9/7/07	9/7/07 Wjones for	9/7/07		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

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

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

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

Steve Winn/Christie Jacobs
Eddy Daniels/Marty Ryan
NRC Energy, Inc.
211 Carnegie Center
Princeton, NJ 08540

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

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

E. D. Halpin
Site Vice President
STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
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. T. Bowman
General Manager, Oversight
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 389
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Marilyn Kistler
Sr. Staff Specialist, Licensing
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289, Mail Code 5014
Wadsworth, TX 77483

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

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

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

cc:

Mr. Ted Enos
4200 South Hulen
Suite 422
Ft. Worth, TX 76109

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

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

Ken Coates
Plant General Manager
STP Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Mr. Terry Parks, Chief Inspector
Texas Department of Licensing
and Regulation
Boiler Division
P.O. Box 12157
Austin, TX 78711

March 2007