



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

January 7, 2016

Mr. Dennis L. Koehl
President and CEO/CNO
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT – NOTIFICATION OF DESIGN BASES INSPECTION (PROGRAMS) (INSPECTION REPORTS 05000498/2016008 and 05000499/2016008) AND INITIAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Dear Mr. Koehl:

On March 21, 2016, the NRC will begin an inspection at the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2. A three person team will perform this inspection using NRC Inspection Procedure 71111.21N, "Design Bases Inspection (Programs)"; Attachment 1, "Environmental Qualification under 10 CFR 50.49 Programs, Processes, and Procedures."

This inspection will evaluate the implementation of the electrical equipment qualification program, as required by the South Texas Project Operating License. Additionally, the team will perform an inspection of the equipment qualification documentation files to verify that electrical equipment important to safety meets the requirements of 10 CFR 50.49. The team will select components that must function while subjected to harsh environments and are required to mitigate the consequences of a design basis accident.

The inspection will include an information gathering site visit by the lead inspector and a senior reactor analyst, and one week of onsite inspection by the team. The inspection team will consist of three NRC inspectors. The current inspection schedule is as follows:

Onsite Information Gathering Visit: February 8-12, 2016 (Tentative)
Preparation Week: March 14-18, 2016
Onsite Week: March 21-24, 2016

The purpose of the information gathering visit is to meet with members of your staff to become familiar with the South Texas Project environmental qualification program. The lead inspector will request a meeting with your personnel to discuss the site environmental qualification program and procedures. Additionally, the lead inspector will request a discussion with your staff to become familiar with the equipment qualification regulations and standards to which the site is committed. Additional information and documentation needed to support the inspection will be identified during the inspection, including interviews with engineering managers and engineers.

Our experience with these inspections has shown that they are extremely resource intensive, both for the NRC inspectors and the licensee staff. In order to minimize the inspection impact on the site and to ensure a productive inspection, we have enclosed a request for information needed for the inspection. This information should be available to the lead inspector during the

information gathering visit, February 8-12, 2016. Since the inspection will be concentrated on equipment qualification, the Equipment Qualification Master List (EQML) should be available to review during the information gathering visit to assist in our selection of components.

Additional requests by inspectors will be made during the onsite week for specific documents needed to complete the review of the selected components. It is important that all of these documents are up to date and complete in order to minimize the number of additional documents requested during the preparation and/or the onsite portions of the inspection. In order to facilitate the inspection, we request that a contact individual be assigned to each inspector to ensure information requests, questions, and concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

The lead inspector for this inspection is Gerond A. George. We understand that our licensing engineer contact for this inspection is Rafael Gonzalez. If there are any questions about the inspection or the requested materials, please contact the lead inspector by telephone at 817-200-1562 or by e-mail at Gerond.George@nrc.gov.

This letter does not contain new or amended information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). Existing information collection requirements were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Control Number 3150-0011. The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a request for information or an information collection requirement unless the requesting document displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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 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).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas R. Farnholtz, Chief
Engineering Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: Request for Information

Electronic Distribution for the South Texas Project

**Initial Request for Information
Design Bases Inspection (Programs), Environmental Qualification
South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2**

Inspection Report: 05000498/2016008, 05000499/2016008

Information Gathering Dates: February 8-12, 2016 (Tentative)

Inspection Dates: March 21-24, 2016

Inspection Procedure: IP 71111, Attachment 21N, "Design Bases Inspection (Programs)"

Lead Inspector: Gerond A. George, Senior Reactor Inspector

I. Information Requested for Information Gathering Visit (February 8-12, 2016)

The following information should be provided to the lead inspector Gerond A. George, in hard copy or electronic format (Certrec IMS preferred), by February 8, 2016, to facilitate the reduction in the items to be selected for a final list of components. The inspection team will finalize the selected list during the prep week using the documents requested in this enclosure. The specific items selected from the lists shall be available and ready for review on the day indicated in this request. *Please provide requested documentation electronically in "pdf" files, Excel, or other searchable formats, if possible. The information should contain descriptive names, and be indexed and hyperlinked to facilitate ease of use. Information in "lists" should contain enough information to be easily understood by someone who has knowledge of pressurized water reactor technology. If requested documents are large and only hard copy formats are available, please inform the inspector(s), and provide subject documentation during the first day of the onsite inspection.

1. List of components that are in Equipment Qualification Master List. If the plant is approved to categorize structures, systems, and components in accordance with 10 CFR 50.67, please provide the Risk Informed Safety Category of the component.
2. List of the Equipment Qualification Master List components sorted by Fussell-Vesely risk importance.
3. List of all post-accident monitoring instrumentation components and locations.
4. South Texas Project Units 1 and 2, word-searchable Updated Final Safety Analysis Report, License Conditions, and Technical Specifications. Specifically identify which UFSAR sections address environmental (including seismic) qualification.
5. NRC Safety Evaluation Report(s) associated with South Texas Project Units 1 and 2 environmental qualification program.

6. Identify the various environmental qualification standards (including year, edition, or revision) to which South Texas Project is committed.
7. Identify whether either unit has entered its period of extended operation (i.e., operation past the original 40 year license period).
8. Selected (not all) equipment qualification documentation files for a sample of electrical equipment listed on the Equipment Qualification Master List (e.g., transmitter, limit switch, motor, MOV actuator, cable, solenoid)
9. Site (and corporate if applicable) procedures associated with the 10 CFR 50.49 environmental qualification program for electrical components. Additionally, please provide similar procedures used to verify mechanical components meet their 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, Criterion 4, "Environmental and Dynamic Effects Design Bases." Include procedures for procurement of qualified equipment, maintenance of qualified equipment, and modification to qualified equipment (including equivalency or commercial grade dedication programs).
10. Site high energy line break analyses, including associated plant area drawings.
11. Procedures for material storage and shelf life controls.
12. List of commercial grade dedication evaluations performed, for which the dedicated parts have been issued for installation on equipment qualification applications in the plant, for the previous five years. Include description of the component, the part that was repaired, work order, and date issued or installed.
13. List of condition reports related to the equipment qualification program or environmental qualification of components (both electrical and mechanical) for the previous 5 years.
14. List of modifications, repairs, or replacement of Equipment Qualification Master List components completed for the previous 5 years.
15. List of modifications, repairs, or replacements of safety-related mechanical components located within high energy line break for the previous 5 years.
16. List of modifications, repairs, or replacements of containment penetrations and safety-related valves/pumps which take suction on the containment sump following a design basis loss-of-coolant accident for the previous 5 years.
17. Any self-assessments and quality assurance assessments of the environmental qualification program performed in the previous 5 years.
18. List of systems (system numbers/designators and corresponding names).
19. Interview with representative to discuss site high energy line break (HELB) analyses, plant drawings, and assumptions.

20. Interview with representative to discuss environmental qualification mandated maintenance elements which are integrated into plant programs and procedures.

21. Interview with representative to discuss maintaining qualification for plant/equipment that has entered its period of extended operation, if applicable.

Inspector Contact Information:

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Gerond.George@nrc.gov

Megan Williams
Reactor Inspector
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Attn: Gerond George
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Arlington, TX 76011-4511

information gathering visit, February 8-12, 2016. Since the inspection will be concentrated on equipment qualification, the Equipment Qualification Master List (EQML) should be available to review during the information gathering visit to assist in our selection of components.

It is requested that this information be provided to the lead inspector as the information is generated during the inspection. Additional requests by inspectors will be made during the onsite week for specific documents needed to complete the review of that component/selection. It is important that all of these documents are up to date and complete in order to minimize the number of additional documents requested during the preparation and/or the onsite portions of the inspection. In order to facilitate the inspection, we request that a contact individual be assigned to each inspector to ensure information requests, questions, and concerns are addressed in a timely manner.

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Distribution

See next page

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML16007A737

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review By: GAG	ADAMS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	Keyword NRC-002
OFFICE	EB1/SRI:			EB1/C:
NAME	GGeorge			TFarnholtz
SIGNATURE	/RA/			/RA/
DATE	1/7/16			1/7/16

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Dennis L. Koehl from Thomas R. Farnholtz dated, January 7, 2016

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