



South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P.O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

October 25, 2001

NOC-AE-01001195
10CFR50.55a

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001


South Texas Project
Unit 1
Docket No. STN 50-498
Results of Remote Visual Examination of the Inside Surface of the
Refueling Water Storage Tank (Relief Request RR-ENG-33)

- References:
1. "Commitment to Visually Examine a Detected Flaw Inside the Refueling Water Storage Tank (Relief Request RR-ENG-33)," T. J. Jordan to NRC Document Control Desk, dated July 19, 2001 (NOC-AE-01001129)
 2. "Response to NRC Safety Evaluation Regarding Refueling Water Storage Tank Leak (Relief Request RR-ENG-33)," T. J. Jordan to NRC Document Control Desk, dated February 15, 2001 (NOC-AE-01001001)

As discussed in Reference 1, the South Texas Project committed to perform a one-time, best-effort visual examination from inside the Unit 1 Refueling Water Storage Tank (RWST) to inspect for the flaw previously detected in the exterior portion of the baseplate. This examination was to determine whether the detected flaw extended inside the tank and, if it did, to confirm that the flaw had not grown inside the tank beyond the adjacent lap joint in the baseplate. A remote visual examination of the relevant portion of the Unit 1 RWST was performed on August 23, 2001, by a certified visual examiner using a video camera mounted on a remotely controlled submersible device. The underwater resolution of the examination system was verified by remotely observing a visual resolution test card placed inside the tank. The inspection system, combined with good water clarity and tank cleanliness, produced an examination with good resolution. No evidence of baseplate or sidewall cracking was observed in the subject area during this examination.

Based on the examination results, in accordance with Reference 1, the South Texas Project does not intend to perform any further analysis, inspection, or repair activity with respect to the detected flaw during the service life of the Unit 1 RWST, including service life extension (if applicable), except those inspections required by the Section XI code, or approved alternative, and those required by the South Texas Project RWST Monitoring Plan. A copy of the South Texas Project RWST Monitoring Plan was submitted as an attachment to Reference 2.

If there are any questions, please contact either Mr. M. S. Lashley at (361) 972-7523 or me at (361) 972-7902.


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