

August 21, 2003

LICENSEE: STP Nuclear Operating Company

FACILITY: South Texas Project, Unit 1

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
HEADQUARTERS AND REGION IV STAFF AND STP NUCLEAR  
OPERATING COMPANY STAFF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE ON  
JUNE 12, 2003, REGARDING SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1,  
BOTTOM-MOUNTED INSTRUMENTATION PENETRATION LEAKAGE  
ISSUE; STATUS OF ACTIVITIES (TAC NO. MB8435)

On June 12, 2003, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Headquarters and Region IV staff held a telephone conference with STP Nuclear Operating Company staff, the licensee for South Texas Project, Unit 1. The conference call was a continuation of the ongoing discussions and was a follow up of the licensee's activities following the discovery of an apparent leakage at the interface of reactor vessel bottom-mounted instrumentation (BMI) penetrations 1 and 46. Enclosure 1 is a list of participants. Enclosure 2 is the telephone conference agenda.

At this phone call, the licensee summarized its activities related to Helium pressure tests, boat sample collection, and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code) relief requests pending NRC staff reviews. The licensee stated that Dominion Engineering was the contractor performing its fatigue analyses for planned new welds, old J-groove welds, and residual stresses.

#### Helium Pressure Tests

Helium pressure tests were performed on leaking BMI penetrations 1 and 46. Tests at a pressure of 100 psig did not show any leakage bubbles. When the pressure was increased to 150 psig, bubbles were seen escaping from penetration 1 at a rate of about 1 bubble per second at the J-groove adjacent to the tube wall and 1/4-inch from a grinding mark.

#### Boat Samples

The licensee discussed the structural integrity considerations of excavation of the boat samples obtained at other plant sites. At North Anna a penetration from the upper head was repaired after removal of a boat sample. At Oconee, a boat sample was taken from the remnant of the tube. D. C. Cook is a precedent, where a boat sample was removed and the tube was left unrepaired. The licensee will continue with its structural integrity analysis and, depending upon the results, may limit the size of the boat samples that can be left unrepaired.

Status of Code Relief Requests

The licensee will request a Code relief pursuant to Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, to permit removal of boat samples using electrical discharge machining in accordance with ASME Code Section XI, 1998 Edition through 2000 Addenda, which will demonstrate that removal of 1/16-inch material from a thermally processed area as specified in Code Section XI, 1989 Edition, no Addenda, is not necessary. The licensee stated that it will have a draft ready today.

Status of Repair Activities

The licensee has installed guide structures in the vessel, installed scaffolding, installed mechanical plugs, drained guide tubes, and will cut guide tubes from penetrations 1 and 46.

Schedular Items

A public meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2003. A reverse confirmatory action letter (CAL) followup letter will describe what the licensee did, and will include an assessment of why it is okay to restart. The root cause report will follow the reverse CAL followup.

**/RA/**

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-498

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc w/enclosures: See next page

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\*See previous concurrences

ADAMS Accession No.: ML032330494

\*\*via e-mail

NRR-106

OFFICE	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-1/LA	RIV*	PDIV-1/SC*
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## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

June 12, 2003

### Licensee's Participants

Ed Halpin	Plant Manager
Louis Peter	Manager, Operations Support
Steve Thomas	Manager, Plant Design
Mark McBurnett	Manager of Quality and Licensing
Alex Kent	Manager, Testing/Programs
Harry Murray	BMI Project Manager
Scott Query	Project Manager
Wayne Harrison	Licensing Engineer
Ed Conway	Public Information
Alan Mikes	Public Information

### NRC Participants

#### Headquarters

Robert Gramm  
Mohan Thadani  
Carol Moyer  
Mark Hartzman  
William Reckley  
Steve Bloom  
Jack Foster  
Matthew Mitchell

#### Region IV

Dwight Chamberlain  
William Johnson  
Michael Runyan  
Gail Good

## TELEPHONE CONFERENCE AGENDA

June 12, 2003

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Desired outcomes & agenda  | McBurnett |
| 2. | Overall status of Unit 1   | Peter     |
| 3. | Deliverables   | Gramm     |
| 4. | Results of additional testing  | Thomas    |
| 5. | Status of repair activities  | Murray    |
| 6. | Schedule for next call or other communications<br>and feedback on call | McBurnett |

Enclosure 2

South Texas Project, Unit 1

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