

December 18, 2003

Mr. J. J. Sheppard
President and Chief Executive Officer
South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company
South Texas Project Electric Generating Station
8 Miles West of Wadsworth, on FM 521
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 - COMPLETION OF
RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR RELIEF CONCERNING FITNESS-FOR-
DUTY ENHANCEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR SECURITY FORCE PERSONNEL
(TAC NOS. MB9241 AND MB9242)

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

On April 29, 2003, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Order EA-03-038 (the Order) modifying the operating license for the subject facilities to require compliance with the compensatory measures (CMs) related to fitness-for-duty enhancements applicable to nuclear facility security force personnel. The CMs were listed in Attachment 2 to the Order.

In your initial response to the Order dated June 2, 2003, you requested (1) a relaxation of the requirements of B.1, B.2, and C.1 of Section III of the Order; (2) an extension of thirty-five (35) days, from the date that the NRC provides the basis for the Order requirements, to submit an answer to the Order or request a hearing; and (3) certain information to ensure that you fully understand the underlying basis for the Order. In your letter dated July 23, 2003, you provided a supplemental response and made three specific requests. You requested that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, (1) rescind the interpretation in the July 10, 2003, NRC letter that shift turnover time must be included in the calculation of group work-hour controls; (2) relax the application of the group work-hour controls during the preparation for and conduct of pilot and annual force-on-force exercises; and (3) relax CM C.2(b) regarding group work-hour controls during planned outages and to authorize an alternative that takes into account the Extended Allowed Outages applicable to the South Texas Project, Unit Nos. 1 and 2.

By letter dated October 23, 2003, the NRC staff granted relaxation for the first and second requests from your July 23, 2003, letter as described above. In your letter dated December 10, 2003, you withdrew the third relaxation request from your July 23, 2003, letter. We herein acknowledge the withdrawal of the third relaxation request which completes our efforts on these requests.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

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Distribution: See next page *See previous concurrence

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***Telecon concurrence**

OFFICE	PDIV-1/LA*	PDI-1/PM*	PDI-1/SC*	PDIV-1/PM*	PDIV-1/SC
NAME	MMcAllister	RGuzman	RLaufer(telecon)	DJaffe	RGramm
DATE	12/12/03	12/15/03	12/18/03	12/12/03	12/18/03

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RGuzman

South Texas Project, 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. L. K. Blaylock
Mr. W. C. Gunst
City Public Service Board
P. O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296

Mr. C. A. Johnson/A. C. Bakken
AEP Texas Central Company
P. O. Box 289
Mail Code: N5022
Wadsworth, TX 77483

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
Texas Genco, LP
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, TX 77251

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

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

S. M. Head, Manager, Licensing
Nuclear Quality & Licensing Department
STP Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 289, Mail Code: N5014
Wadsworth, TX 77483

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

Jon C. Wood
Matthews & Branscomb
112 East Pecan, Suite 1100
San Antonio, TX 78205

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

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

May 2003

South Texas Project, Units 1 & 2

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

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

Mr. Ted Enos
4200 South Hulen
Suite 630
Ft. Worth, Texas 76109