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NRC APPROVES POWER UPRATE FOR SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by South Texas Project (STP) Nuclear Operating Company to increase the generating capacity of the STP, Units 1 and 2, by 1.4 percent, or 18 megawatts.

The power uprate at the plant, near Bay City, Texas, will increase the generating capacity of each reactor to about 1268 megawatts of electricity. The facility intends to implement the power uprate at Unit 1 this summer, and at Unit 2 this fall, following replacement of steam generators at Unit 2. The application for the power increase was submitted to the NRC on August 22, 2001.

The NRC's evaluation of the requested power uprate for the plant focused on several areas, including nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident calculations, radiological consequences, operations and technical specification changes. The NRC staff determined that the licensee could safely increase the power output of the reactor by making certain plant instrumentation modifications.

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