

Docket No. 50-498

June 9, 1987

Mr. J. H. Goldberg
Group Vice - President, Nuclear
Houston Lighting and Power Company
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION FROM GENERAL DESIGN CRITERIA (GDC) 57,
APPENDIX A, 10 CFR 50 - SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment is related to your letter dated May 15, 1987, in which you requested a schedular exemption from certain requirements related to GDC 57, Appendix A, 10 CFR Part 50.

The assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,



Jose A. Calvo, Director
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Project Directorate - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:

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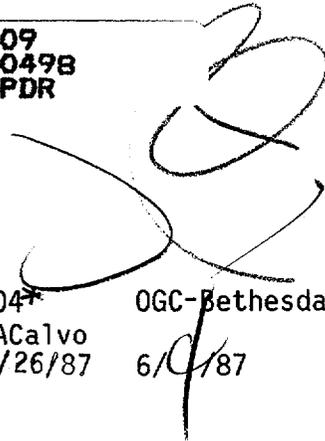
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PD4 <i>NPK</i> PKadambi:as 5/2/87	PD4 <i>PM</i> PNoonan 5/26/87	<i>MC</i> SPLB JCraig 5/26/87	PD4 <i>MC</i> JACalvo 5/24/87	OGC-Bethesda 5/ /87	DR4A FSchroeder 5/ /87	DRSP DCrutchfield 5/ /87
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Mr. J. H. Goldberg
Houston Lighting and Power Company

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cc:

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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June 9, 1987

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

HOUSTON LIGHTING AND POWER COMPANY, ET. AL.

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 1

DOCKET NO. 50-498

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND

FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a Scheduler Exemption from a portion of the requirements of General Design Criterion (GDC) 57 (10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A) to the Houston Lighting and Power Company, acting for itself and for the City of San Antonio (acting by and through the City Public Service Board of San Antonio), Central Power and Light Company, and the City of Austin, Texas (the applicants). The Scheduler Exemption would apply to the South Texas Project (STP) Unit 1 located in Matagorda County, Texas. The limited exemption would end after the first refueling outage of the South Texas Project, Unit 1.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action: The Scheduler Exemption would permit the applicants to deviate from the requirements of GDC 57 applicable to the Component Cooling Water (CCW) piping system inside containment which serves both the essential and non-essential cooling functions to the Reactor Containment Fan Coolers (RCFC's). In this case, the essential system is CCW piping system associated with providing cooling water to the RCFC's. The non-essential system is the chilled water supply to the RCFC's.

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Need for Proposed Action: The proposed Scheduler Exemption is needed in order for the applicants to meet the scheduled Unit 1 fuel load date. The applicants would not be required to perform plant modifications immediately which they propose to make so that the relevant CCW system design would be in compliance with GDC 56, and would no longer be covered by GDC 57. The plant modifications would be required to be completed before start-up after the first refueling outage.

The existing containment isolation provides considerable assurance that radioactive material will not escape across the containment boundary in case of an accident. This assurance is based on the fact that the CCW piping within containment is of seismic Category 1 designation and designed to withstand pressures higher than the maximum accident related pressure within containment. The CCW lines to the RCFC's do not connect with the reactor coolant pressure boundary.

A delay of fuel loading is not justified under the circumstances.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action: The proposed Scheduler Exemption would not affect the environmental impact of the facility. The likelihood of a breach in the CCW piping is extremely small and would have no significant effect on the overall plant accident risk.

The Scheduler Exemption does not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Likewise, the relief granted does not affect non-radiological plant effluents, and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or non-radiological impacts associated with the Scheduler Exemption.

The proposed Scheduler Exemption involves design features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radioactive effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no non-radiological impacts associated with this proposed Scheduler Exemption.

Since we have concluded that there are no measurable negative environmental impacts associated with this Scheduler Exemption, any alternatives would not provide any significant additional protection of the environment. The alternative to the Scheduler Exemption would be to require literal compliance with GDC 57 for the duration of the license. This would restrict the onset of plant operation.

Alternative Use Of Resources: This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (NUREG-1171) for STP, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Contacted: The NRC staff reviewed the applicants' request and applicable documents referenced therein that support this Scheduler Exemption for STP, Units 1 and 2. The NRC did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for this action. Based upon the environmental assessment, we conclude that this action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

June 9, 1987

For details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated May 15, 1987. This document, utilized in the NRC staff's technical evaluation of the exemption request, is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boiling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488. The staff's technical evaluation of the request will be published with the Operating License (if it is granted) and will also be available for inspection at both locations listed above.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this day of .

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Projects, III, IV,
V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation