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Hee M. Rushbrook

Houston Lighting & Power Company ATTN: Mr. G. W. Oprea, Jr.

Executive Vice President

Post Office Box 1700 Houston, Texas 77001

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

#### Gentlemen:

Docket Nos 50-498

and 50-499

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-128 and CPPR-129 for the South Texas Project. These amendments are in response to your request dated March 10, 1978, and delete two construction permit requirements related to measures for controlling siltation and erosion.

A copy of the Negative Declaration, the Federal Register Notice and the Environmental Impact Appraisal are also enclosed.

Sincerely.

George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch No. 1 Division of Site Safety

and Environmental Analysis

#### Enclosures:

1. Amendments to CPs

2. Negative Declaration

3. Federal Register Notice

4. Environ. Impact Appraisal

cc: w/encl: See attached list

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cc: Mr. T. L. Luke
Project Manager, STP
Houston Lighting and Power Company
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77001

Mr. M. L. Borchelt Central Power and Light Company P. O. Box 2121 Corpus Christi, TX 78403

Mr. R. L. Hancock City of Austin Electric Utility Department P. O. Box 1088 Austin, TX 78767

Mr. J. B. Poston
Assistant General Manager
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Melbert Schwarz, Jr., Esq. Baker & Botts One Shell Plaza Houston, TX 77002

Mr. G. Hohmann Westinghouse Electric Corporation P. O. Box 355 Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Mr. J. A. Signorelli NUS Corporation NUS-4 Research Place Rockville, MD 20850 Mr. G. S. Bierman Brown & Root, Inc. P. O. Box 3 Houston, Texas 77001

Mr. Troy C. Webb Assistant Attorney General Environmental Protection Div. P. O. Box 12548 Capitol Station Austin. Texas 78711

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Director, Governor's Budget and Planning Office Executive Office Building 411 W. 13th Street Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. James M. Rose, Director Division of Planning Coordination Office of the Governor ATTN: State Clearinghouse P. O. Box 12428, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

Houston-Galveston Area Council 3701 West Alabama Avenue Houston, Texas 77027

Mr. Clinton Spotts
U. S. Environmental Protection
Agency
1201 Elm Street
First International Building
Dallas, Texas 75270

Honorable Bert Huebner Judge, Matagorda County Matagorda County Courthouse 1700 Seventh Street Bay City, Texas 77414

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## HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. STN 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Amendment No. 1 Construction Permit No. CPPR-128

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued Amendment No. 1 to Construction Permit No. CPPR-128. The amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 25 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES), the amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing Record (paragraph 3.E.1 of CPPR-128). The remainder of Section 4.5 remains in effect.

This amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Roger S. Boyd, Director Division of Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

\*For concurrence see previous yellow

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#### HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY

CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. STN 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Amendment No. 1 Construction Permit No. CPPR-128

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued Amendment No. 1 to Construction Permit No. CPPR-128. The amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES); the amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing Record (paragraph 3.E.1 of CPPR-128). The remainder of Section 4.5 remains in effect.

This amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Olan D. Parr, Chief Light Water Reactors Branch No. 3 Division of Project Management

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#### HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY

#### CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. STN 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Amendment No. 1 Construction Permit No. CPPR-129

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued Amendment No. 1 to Construction Permit No. CPPR-129. The amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES); the amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing Record (paragraph 3.E.1 of CPPR-129). The remainder of Section 4.5 remains in effect.

This amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Roger S. Boyd, Director Division of Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

\*For concurrence see previous yellow

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#### HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY

#### CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. STN 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Amendment No. 1 Construction Permit No. CPPR-129

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued Amendment No. 1 to Construction P Permit No. CPPR-129. The amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES); the amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing Record (paragraph 3.E.1 of CPPR-129). The remainder of Section 4.5 remains in effect.

This amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Olan D. Parr, Chief Light Water Reactors Branch No. 3 Division of Project Management

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## SUPPORTING AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE DELETION OF CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

UNITS NO. 1 AND 2 (CPPR-128 AND CPPR-129)

HOUSTON LIGHTING AND POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has reviewed the proposed Amendment relating to the construction permits for the South Texas Project, Units No. 1 and 2 (CPPR-128 and CPPR-129), located in Matagorda County, Texas, issued to Houston Lighting and Power Company. The Amendment would authorize the deletion of two construction permit requirements related to measures for controlling siltation and erosion.

The Commission's Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis has prepared an environmental impact appraisal for the Amendment, and has concluded that an environmental impact statement for this particular action is not warranted. This conclusion is based on the fact that there will be no significant environmental impacts attributable to the proposed action, and any impacts which might occur will be less than those predicted and described in the Final Environmental Statement for the South Texas Project, Units No. 1 and 2, published in March 1975.

The environmental impact appraisal is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Matagorda County Courthouse, 1700 Seventh

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Street, Bay City, Texas, 77914. A copy may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 15th day of May 1978,

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch No. 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

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## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION DOCKET NOS. STN 50-498 AND STN 50-499 HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY, et al NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-128 and CPPR-129 issued to Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al for construction of the South Texas Project, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located at the Permittee's site in Matagorda County, Texas.

The amendment deletes two construction permit requirements related to measures for controlling siltation and erosion.

The application for the amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. Prior public notice of this amendment is not required since the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

The Commission has prepared an environmental impact appraisal for the amendment to the construction permits, and has concluded that an environmental impact statement for this particular action is not warranted because there will be no significant environmental impact attributable to this action.

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For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated March 10, 1978, (2) Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-128 and CPPR-129, and (3) the Commission's Environmental Impact Appraisal. All of these items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Doucment Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and in the Matagorda County Courthouse, 1700 Seventh Street, Bay City, Texas. A copy of items (2), and (3) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 15 day of may 1978.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch No. 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

#### BY THE DIVISION OF SITE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

#### SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE DELETION OF

CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS NO. 1 AND 2 (CPPR-128 AND CPPR-129)

HOUSTON LIGHTING AND POWER COMPANY

DOCKET MOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

#### 1. Description of Proposed Action

The action proposed is the issuance of an Amendment to the construction Permits pertaining to the South Texas Project (STP), Units No. 1 and 2. The Amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES); the Amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing record.

The permittee, Houston Lighting and Power Company, requested the above stated deletions by letter dated March 10, 1978. The request has to do with the lifting of the requirement that the permittee must (1) cover the bottom of the barge slip with crushed stone, gravel or shell to stabilize the bottom and reduce siltation and erosion, and (2) route the discharge from plant construction runoff through sedimentation basins sized to hold the runoff from a 10 year - 24 hour rainfall event, prior to final discharge into the Colorado River. The NRC staff has reviewed the request and found that good cause has been shown for deletion of the two construction permit requirements.

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#### 2. Summary Description of the Probable Impacts of the Proposed Action

At the time of the construction permit review, it was assumed that material would erode from the bottom of the barge slip into the Colorado River. In reality, the normal tidal activity and fluctuating river conditions create an eddy effect in the barge slip resulting in the transport of river sediments into the slip. The general quiescent condition in the barge slip results in sediment being deposited over any stabilizing material on the bottom. Thus, the slip is a repository for sediment rather than a source, and the stabilizing material cannot serve its purpose of reducing sedimentation. Consequently, the deletion of the requirement to cover the barge slip with stabilizing material will not result in an adverse impact on the Colorado River.

The second construction permit amendment would allow the permittee to decommission two sedimentation basins which received runoff during station construction. The two basins -- the East and West Sedimentation Basins -- currently serve the station site; other basins serving the cooling lake will not be affected by this amendment. The permittee desires to decommission the two basins so that he might construct the permanent storm drainage system. Onsite space limitations necessitate this sequence of events.

During the construction permit review, staff calculated the amount of total suspended solids (TSS) expected to occur due to storm runoff during construction. This value was found to be acceptable, and actual data have been considerably below the estimates (180 ppm vs. 900 ppm).

Calculations of TSS resulting from the decommissioning of the two sedimentation basins have shown that these values, too, will be much lower than the acceptable levels calculated during the construction permit review (240 ppm vs. 900 ppm). Furthermore, the effects of decommissioning the two sedimentation basins will be of a temporary nature in that the permanent storm drain system will be in place in early 1979. The permittee also plans to implement an erosion stabilization plan during the interim between the construction and permanent systems, and this plan will further reduce the TSS concentrations in the storm runoff.

Thus, because of the temporary nature of the period between sedimentation basin decommissioning and implementation of the permanent storm drainage system, because the permittee will reduce erosion through the use of an acceptable stabilization program, and because the impacts are expected to be much lower than those found accep-

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table during the construction permit review, the impacts resulting from this second construction permit amendment will be insignificant and acceptable.

#### 3. Safety Consideration

We have determined that the requested amendment, pertaining to the control of erosion and sedimentation on the plant site, does not involve any increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered, or a decrease in any safety margin. Therefore, there is no significant hazards consideration. Further, there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by continued construction under the proposed amended construction permits. We reaffirm our conclusions as stated in our Safety Evaluation Report and its Supplement.

#### Conclusion and Basis for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis and the NRC staff evaluation. it is concluded that there will be no significant environmental impacts attributable to the proposed action. Furthermore, any impacts which do occur will be less than those predicted and described in the staff's FES issued in March 1975. Having made this conclusion, the Commission has further concluded that no environmental impact statement for the proposed action need be prepared, and that a negative declaration to this effect is appropriate.

Jeremiah D. Jackson, Project Manager Environmental Projects Branch 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

Dated: MAY 18 100

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### UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

#### BY THE DIVISION OF SITE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE DELETION OF

CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS NO. 1 AND 2 (CPPR-128 AND CPPR-129)

HOUSTON LIGHTING AND POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

#### 1. Description of Proposed Action

The action proposed is the issuance of an Amendment to the construction Permits pertaining to the South Texas Project (STP), Units No. 1 and 2. The Amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES); the Amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing record.

The permittee, Houston Lighting and Power Company, requested the above stated deletions by letter dated March 10, 1978. The request has to do with the lifting of the requirement that the permittee must (1) cover the bottom of the barge slip with crushed stone, gravel or shell to stabilize the bottom and reduce siltation and erosion, and (2) route the discharge from plant construction runoff through sedimentation basins sized to hold the runoff from a 10 year - 24 hour rainfall event, prior to final discharge into the Colorado River. The NRC staff has reviewed the request and found that good cause has been shown for deletion of the two construction permit requirements.

#### 2. Summary Description of the Probable Impacts of the Proposed Action

At the time of the construction permit review, it was assumed that material would erode from the bottom of the barge slip into the Colorado River. In reality, the normal tidal activity and fluctuating river conditions create an eddy effect in the barge slip resulting in the transport of river sediments into the slip. The general quiescent condition in the barge slip results in sediment being deposited over any stabilizing material on the bottom. Thus, the slip is a repository for sediment rather than a source, and the stabilizing material cannot serve its purpose of reducing sedimentation. Consequently, the deletion of the requirement to cover the barge slip with stabilizing material will not result in an adverse impact on the Colorado River.

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During the construction permit review, staff calculated the amount of total suspended solids (TSS) expected to occur due to storm runoff during construction. This value was found to be acceptable, and actual data have been considerably below the estimates (180 ppm vs. 900 ppm).

Calculations of TSS resulting from the decommissioning of the two sedimentation basins have shown that these values, too, will be much lower than the acceptable levels calculated during the construction permit review (240 ppm vs. 900 ppm). Furthermore, the effects of decommissioning the two sedimentation basins will be of a temporary nature in that the permanent storm drain system will be in place in early 1979. The permittee also plans to implement an erosion stabilization plan during the interim between the construction and permanent systems, and this plan will further reduce the TSS concentrations in the storm runoff.

Thus, because of the temporary nature of the period between sedimentation basin decommissioning and implementation of the permanent storm drainage system, because the permittee will reduce erosion through the use of an acceptable stabilization program, and because the impacts are expected to be much lower than those found acceptable during the construction permit review, the impacts resulting from this second construction permit amendment will be insignificant and acceptable.

#### 3. Safety Consideration

We have determined that the requested amendment, pertaining to the control of erosion and sedimentation on the plant site, does not involve any increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered, or a decrease in any safety margin. Therefore, there is no significant hazards consideration. Further, there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by continued construction under the proposed amended construction permits. We reaffirm our conclusions as stated in our Safety Evaluation Report and its Supplement.

#### 4. Conclusion and Basis for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis and the NRC staff evaluation, it is concluded that there will be no significant environmental impacts attributable to the proposed action. Furthermore, any impacts which do occur will be less than those predicted and described in the staff's FES issued in March 1975. Having made this conclusion, the Commission has further concluded that no environmental impact statement for the proposed action need be prepared, and that a negative declaration to this effect is appropriate.

MAY 15 1978

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Starga O. D. Parr

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TCOX & M.Rushbrook

Post Office Box 1700 Houston, Texas 77001

Houston Lighting & Power Company

Executive Vice President

ATTN: Mr. G. W. Oprea, Jr.

and (50-499

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

#### Gentlemen:

Docket Nos. 50-498

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-128 and CPPR-129 for the South Texas Project. These amendments are in response to your request dated March 10, 1978, and delete two construction permit requirements related to measures for controlling siltation and erosion.

A copy of the Negative Declaration, the Federal Register Notice and the Environmental Impact Appraisal are also enclosed.

Sincerely.

George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch No. 1 Division of Site Safety

and Environmental Analysis

#### Enclosures:

- Amendments to CPs
   Negative Declaration
- 3. Federal Register Notice
- 4. Environ. Impact Appraisal

cc: w/encl: See attached list

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cc: Mr. T. L. Luke
Project Manager, STP
Houston Lighting and Power Company
P. O. Box 1700
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Mr. James M. Rose, Director Division of Planning Coordination Office of the Governor ATTN: State Clearinghouse P. O. Box 12428, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

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Mr. Clinton Spotts
U. S. Environmental Protection
Agency
1201 Elm Street
First International Building
Dallas, Texas 75270

Honorable Bert Huebner Judge, Matagorda County Matagorda County Courthouse 1700 Seventh Street Bay City, Texas 77414

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MAY 15 1978

### HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. STN 50-498

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 1

AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Amendment No. 1 Construction Permit No. CPPR-128

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued Amendment No. 1 to Construction Permit No. CPPR-128. The amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES), the amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing Record (paragraph 3.E.1 of CPPR-128). The remainder of Section 4.5 remains in effect.

This amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Roger S. Boyd, Director Division of Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

\*For concurrence see previous yellow

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HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY
CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

DOCKET NO. STN 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NO. 2

AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Amendment No. 1 Construction Permit No. CPPR-129

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued Amendment No. 1 to Construction Parmit No. CPPR-129. The amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES); the amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing Record (paragraph 3.E.1 of CPPR-129). The remainder of Section 4.5 remains in effect.

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FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Roger S. Boyd, Director Division of Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

\*For concurrence see previous yellow

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#### **REGATIVE DECLARATION**

#### SUPPORTING AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE DELETION OF

#### CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

UNITS NO. 1 AND 2 (CPPR-128 AND CPPR-129)

HOUSTON LIGHTING AND POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has reviewed the proposed Amendment relating to the construction permits for the South Texas Project, Units No. 1 and 2 (CPPR-128 and CPPR-129). located in Matagorda County, Texas, issued to Houston Lighting and Power Company. The Amendment would authorize the deletion of two construction permit requirements related to measures for controlling siltation and erosion.

The Commission's Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis has prepared an environmental impact appraisal for the Amendment, and has concluded that an environmental impact statement for this particular action is not warranted. This conclusion is based on the fact that there will be no significant environmental impacts attributable to the proposed action, and any impacts which might occur will be less than those predicted and described in the Final Environmental Statement for the South Texas Project, Units No. 1 and 2, published in Narch 1975.

The environmental impact appraisal is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Matagorda County Courthouse, 1700 Seventh

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Street, Bay City, Texas, 77914. A copy may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 15th day of May 1978,

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch No. 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

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# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION DOCKET NOS. STN 50-498 AND STN 50-499 HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY, et al NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-128 and CPPR-129 issued to Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al for construction of the South Texas Project, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located at the Permittee's site in Matagorda County, Texas.

The amendment deletes two construction permit requirements related to measures for controlling siltation and erosion.

The application for the amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. Prior public notice of this amendment is not required since the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

The Commission has prepared an environmental impact appraisal for the amendment to the construction permits, and has concluded that an environmental impact statement for this particular action is not warranted because there will be no significant environmental impact attributable to this action.

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For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated March 10, 1978, (2) Amendments No. 1 to Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-128 and CPPR-129, and (3) the Commission's Environmental Impact Appraisal. All of these items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Doucment Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and in the Matagorda County Courthouse, 1700 Seventh Street, Bay City, Texas. A copy of items (2), and (3) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 15 day of more 1978.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch No. 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

#### BY THE DIVISION OF SITE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

#### SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE DELETION OF

#### CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS NO. 1 AND 2 (CPPR-128 AND CPPR-129)

HOUSTON LIGHTING AND POWER COMPANY

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

#### 1. Description of Proposed Action

The action proposed is the issuance of an Amendment to the construction Permits pertaining to the South Texas Project (STP), Units No. 1 and 2. The Amendment deletes the commitment and condition set forth in the first sentence of commitment 26 of Section 4.5.1 of the Final Environmental Statement (FES); the Amendment also deletes the condition set forth in the first sentence of condition 1 of Section 4.5.2 of the FES, as clarified by Staff Exhibit 3 of the Hearing record.

The permittee, Houston Lighting and Power Company, requested the above stated deletions by letter dated March 10, 1978. The request has to do with the lifting of the requirement that the permittee must (1) cover the bottom of the barge slip with crushed stone, gravel or shell to stabilize the bottom and reduce siltation and erosion, and (2) route the discharge from plant construction runoff through sedimentation basins sized to hold the runoff from a 10 year - 24 hour rainfall event, prior to final discharge into the Colorado River. The NRC staff has reviewed the request and found that good cause has been shown for deletion of the two construction permit requirements.

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#### 2. Summary Description of the Probable Impacts of the Proposed Action

At the time of the construction permit review, it was assumed that material would erode from the bottom of the barge slip into the Colorado River. In reality, the normal tidal activity and fluctuating river conditions create an eddy effect in the barge slip resulting in the transport of river sediments into the slip. The general quiescent condition in the barge slip results in sediment being deposited over any stabilizing material on the bottom. Thus, the slip is a repository for sediment rather than a source, and the stabilizing material cannot serve its purpose of reducing sedimentation. Consequently, the deletion of the requirement to cover the barge slip with stabilizing material will not result in an adverse impact on the Colorado River.

The second construction permit amendment would allow the permittee to decommission two sedimentation basins which received runoff during station construction. The two basins — the East and West Sedimentation Basins — currently serve the station site; other basins serving the cooling lake will not be affected by this amendment. The permittee desires to decommission the two basins so that he might construct the permanent storm drainage system. Onsite space limitations necessitate this sequence of events.

During the construction permit review, staff calculated the amount of total suspended solids (TSS) expected to occur due to storm runoff during construction. This value was found to be acceptable, and actual data have been considerably below the estimates (180 ppm vs. 900 ppm).

Calculations of TSS resulting from the decommissioning of the two sedimentation basins have shown that these values, too, will be much lower than the acceptable levels calculated during the construction permit review (240 ppm vs. 900 ppm). Furthermore, the effects of decommissioning the two sedimentation basins will be of a temporary nature in that the permanent storm drain system will be in place in early 1979. The permittee also plans to implement an erosion stabilization plan during the interim between the construction and permanent systems, and this plan will further reduce the TSS concentrations in the storm runoff.

Thus, because of the temporary nature of the period between sedimentation basin decommissioning and implementation of the permanent storm drainage system, because the permittee will reduce erosion through the use of an acceptable stabilization program, and because the impacts are expected to be much lower than those found accep-

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table during the construction permit review, the impacts resulting from this second construction permit amendment will be insignificant and acceptable.

#### 3. Safety Consideration

We have determined that the requested amendment, pertaining to the control of erosion and sedimentation on the plant site, does not involve any increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered, or a decrease in any safety margin. Therefore, there is no significant hazards consideration. Further, there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by continued construction under the proposed amended construction permits. We reaffirm our conclusions as stated in our Safety Evaluation Report and its Supplement.

#### 4. Conclusion and Basis for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis and the NRC staff evaluation. It is concluded that there will be no significant environmental impacts attributable to the proposed action. Furthermore, any impacts which do occur will be less than those predicted and described in the staff's FES issued in March 1975. Having made this conclusion, the Commission has further concluded that no environmental impact statement for the proposed action need be prepared, and that a negative declaration to this effect is appropriate.

Jeremiah D. Jackson, Project Manager Environmental Projects Branch 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

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George W. Knighton, Chief Environmental Projects Branch 1 Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

Dated:

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