

June 8, 1989

Docket No. 50-498

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

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS AND
OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING, SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(TAC NOS. 72995 AND 72996)

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses and Opportunity for Hearing." This notice relates to your application for amendments dated April 18, 1989 (ST-HL-AE-3040), which would permit the retention of the minimum reactor coolant flow rate of 395,000 gpm as presently included in the plants' technical specifications.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By
George F. Dick, Jr.**

George F. Dick, Jr., Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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G. Holahan
G. Dick
GPA/PA

NRC PDR

L. Rubenstein
OGC-Rockville
PD4 Plant File

Local PDR

F. Hebdon
D. Hagan

PD4 Reading

P. Noonan
ACRS (10)

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

June 8, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-498
and 50-499

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

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SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS AND
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(TAC NOS. 72995 AND 72996)

The Commission has requested the Office of the Federal Register to publish the enclosed "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses and Opportunity for Hearing." This notice relates to your application for amendments dated April 18, 1989 (ST-HL-AE- 3040), which would permit the retention of the minimum reactor coolant flow rate of 395,00 gpm in the plants' technical specifications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George F. Dick, Jr.", is positioned above the typed name and title.

George F. Dick, Jr., Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. J. H. Goldberg
Houston Lighting and Power Company

South Texas Project

cc:

Brian Berwick, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division
P. O. Box 12548
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. J. T. Westermeier
General Manager, South Texas Project
Houston Lighting and Power Company
P. O. Box 289
Houston, Texas 77483

Mr. R. J. Miner
Chief Operating Officer
City of Austin Electric Utility
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78704

Mr. R. J. Costello
Mr. M. T. Hardt
City Public Service Board
P. O. Box 1771
San Antonio, Texas 78296

Jack R. Newman, Esq.
Newman & Holtzinger, P. C.
1615 L Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Melbert Schwartz, Jr., Esq.
Baker & Botts
One Shell Plaza
Houston, Texas 77002

Doub, Muntzing and Glasgow
Attorneys at Law
Suite 400
808 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Resident Inspector/South Texas
Project
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 910
Bay City, Texas 77414

Ms. Iris J. Jones
Acting City Attorney
City of Austin
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Mr. S. L. Rosen
General Manager, Operations Support
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Mr. M. A. McBurnett
Manager, Operations Support Licensing
Houston Lighting and Power Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Mr. E. T. Molnar
Mr. L. W. Hurst
Bechtel Corporation
P. O. Box 2166
Houston, Texas 77252-2166

Mr. R. P. Verret
Mr. R. L. Range
Central Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 2121
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

Mr. J. H. Goldberg
Houston Lighting & Power Company

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South Texas Project

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Executive Director
for Operations
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Joseph M. Hendrie
50 Bellport Lane
Bellport, New York 11713

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

Licensing Representative
Houston Lighting and Power Company
Suite 610
Three Metro Center
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Rufus S. Scott
Associate General Counsel
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77001

Bureau of Radiation Control
State of Texas
1101 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Office of the Governor
ATTN: Ms. Darla Parker
Office of Intergovernmental Relations
Post Office Box 13561
Austin, Texas 78711

Gerald E. Vaughn, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

R. W. Chewning, Chairman
Nuclear Safety Review Board
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY
DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS
TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AND
OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80, issued to Houston Lighting & Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 (STP-1 and STP-2) located in Matagorda County, Texas.

The amendments would permit the licensee to retain the minimum reactor coolant system (RCS) flow rate of 395,000 gpm in the plants' technical specifications. After the licensee identified the presence of a thermal-hydraulic flow instability in STP-1 it followed with an immediate action to administratively increase the minimum RCS flow to 400,000 gpm to offset any loss of generic Departure from Nucleate Boiling (DNB) margin. Subsequent reevaluation of the condition concluded that operating at 395,000 gpm would result in only a slight increase in peak cladding temperature (10°F) for the limiting accident.

Prior to issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

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By July 17, 1989 , the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition, and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR §2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days

prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceedings, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner or representative for the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-800-325-6000 (in Missouri 1-800-342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to Frederick J. Hebdon: petitioner's name and telephone number; date Petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy

of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to Newman & Holtzinger, P.C., 1615 L Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, attorney for the licensee.


Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

If a request for hearing is received, the Commission's staff may issue the amendment after it completes its technical review and prior to the completion of any required hearing if it publishes a further notice for public comment of its proposed finding of no significant hazards consideration in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91 and 50.92.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated April 18, 1989, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and at the Wharton Junior College Library, Wharton, Texas 77488.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 8th day of June 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Frederick J. Hebbon, Director
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation