

May 1, 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: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -  
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated February 24, 1988, for modifications to South Texas Project, Unit 1. The change would modify the Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System (ESFAS) logic such that failure of radiation monitors located in three areas of the plant will annunciate in the control room rather than cause an ESF actuation. Only a high radiation signal will cause such an actuation. The application identified the modifications as an unreviewed safety question.

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

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:

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G. Holahan

L. Rubenstein

J. Calvo

F. Hebdon

P. Noonan

G. Dick

C. Abbate

OGC-Rockville

E. Jordan

B. Grimes

ACRS (10)

GPA/PA

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PD4/LA \*

PNoonan

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CAbbate:bj

04/12/89

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OGC

12 Bachmann

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

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Sincerely,

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

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

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

South Texas Project

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Mr. J. H. Goldberg  
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- 2 -

South Texas Project

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

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONHOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY, ET AL.SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 1DOCKET NO. 50-498ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-76, issued to Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al., (the licensee) for the South Texas Project, Unit 1, located at the licensee's site in Matagorda County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise provisions in the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) and modify the logic of the Engineered Safety Feature Actuation System (ESFAS) such that failure of radiation monitors located in three areas of the plant would annunciate in the control room instead of actuating Engineered Safety Features (ESF).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated February 24, 1988.

The Need for The Proposed Action:

The proposed change will reduce the number of unnecessary ESF actuations.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed change would modify the ESFAS logic such that radiation monitor failures will annunciate in the control room rather than cause an ESF actuation. Currently, ESF actuation will occur automatically upon either failure of a radiation monitor or a high radiation signal in either of two redundant monitors. The consequences of an accident could increase only if the accident is postulated to occur while one radiation monitor is out of service and the other fails simultaneously. In that situation, the ESF would not be actuated on a high radiation condition. However, the Technical Specifications require immediate action (within 1 hour) if the appropriate number of monitors are not operable. Consequently, there is no significant hazard associated with the change. Moreover, the slightly increased consequences of such an accident would not affect offsite releases. Therefore, the proposed changes only very slightly increase the consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change involves systems located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER

on September 12, 1988 (53 FR 35244). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (NUREG-171) for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

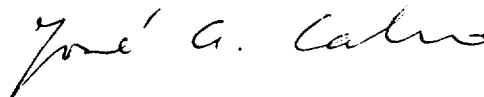
For information concerning this action, see the application of amendment dated February 24, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and



at the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488 and Austin Public Library, 810 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 1st day of May 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jose A. Calvo".

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