

Docket Nos. 50-498
and 50-499

October 31, 1991

Mr. Donald P. Hall
Group Vice-President, Nuclear
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P. O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77251

Dear Mr. Hall:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS M81792 AND M81793)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to the application from Houston Lighting & Power Company dated July 19, 1991, as supplemented by letter dated September 20, 1991, requesting a scheduler exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(t).

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

George F. Dick, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONHOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANYCITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIOCENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYCITY OF AUSTIN, TEXASDOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(t) to Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al., (the licensee), for operation of the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, located in Matagorda County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirement of 10 CFR 50.54(t) to review its emergency preparedness program at least every 12 months by persons who have no direct responsibility for implementation of the emergency preparedness program. By letter dated July 19, 1991, as supplemented on September 20, 1991, the licensee requested an exemption from 10 CFR 50.54(t) which would defer the completion of the emergency preparedness program audit for three months beyond the current schedule of September 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action

Section 50.54(t) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires the licensee to review its emergency preparedness program at least every 12 months by persons who have no direct responsibility for implementation of the emergency preparedness program. A major enhancement of the South Texas

Project, Units 1 and 2, emergency preparedness program was implemented in August 1991, and annual retraining of the emergency response organization was delayed to August 1, 1991, to allow inclusion of the enhanced emergency preparedness program. The exemption to December 1991 will allow for an evaluation of the enhanced emergency preparedness program after four months of implementation.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption affects only the licensee's required date for reviewing its emergency preparedness program. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously, and the proposed exemption does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents, or any significant occupational exposures. With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption does not affect plant non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no measurable radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives either will have no environmental impact or will have a greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to require an earlier date for the independent review of the emergency preparedness program. Such an action would not enhance the protection of the environment. The exemption to December 1991 will allow for an evaluation of the enhanced emergency preparedness program after four months of implementation.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, dated August 1986.

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 exemption. Based upon the environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's letters dated July 19, 1991, and September 20, 1991. The letters are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of October 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

George F. Dick

George F. Dick, Acting Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation