

December 20, 1993

Docket Nos. 50-498  
and 50-499

Mr. William T. Cottle  
Group Vice President, Nuclear  
Houston Lighting & Power Company  
South Texas Project Electric Generating Station  
Post Office Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Dear Mr. Cottle:

SUBJECT: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (TAC NOS. M87735 AND M87736)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated September 15, 1993, as supplemented November 30, 1993, for amendment to the South Texas Project Technical Specifications to revise the limitations on concentrations of radioactive material released in liquid effluents and the limitations on the dose rate resulting from radioactive material released in gaseous effluents. This change concerns the monitoring, reporting, and record retention requirements and reflects the relocation of the prior 10 CFR 20.106 requirements to the new 10 CFR 20.1302.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:  
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosures:  
See next page

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Mr. William T. Cottle

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONHOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANYCITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIOCENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANYCITY OF AUSTIN, TEXASSOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2DOCKET 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 amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80, issued to the Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al. (the licensee), for operation of the South Texas Project, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located in Matagorda County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would consist of revisions to 10 CFR Part 20 references to recognize the new section numbers, revise definitions to ensure consistency with 10 CFR Part 20, and change administrative controls for reporting and recordkeeping to maintain compliance with the new Part 20. The change would revise the limitations on concentrations of radioactive material released in liquid effluents and the limitations on the dose rate resulting from radioactive material released in gaseous effluents and reflect the relocation of the prior 10 CFR 20.106 requirements to the new 10 CFR 20.1302. These changes are in response to the licensee's application for amendments dated September 15, 1993, as supplemented by letter dated November 30, 1993.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed in order to retain operational flexibility consistent with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix I, concurrent with the implementation of the revised 10 CFR Part 20.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed revision, in regards to the actual release rates as referenced in the Technical Specifications (TS) as a dose rate to the maximally exposed member of the public, will not increase the types or amounts of effluents that may be released offsite, nor increase individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposures. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed changes do not affect nonradiological effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments to the TS, any alternative to the amendments will have either no significantly different environmental impact or will have greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendments. This would not reduce environmental impacts as a result of plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of 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 license amendments.

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 further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated September 15, 1993, as supplemented by letter dated November 30, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC and at the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 17th day of December 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Suzanne C. Black, Director  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation