

March 1, 1989

Docket No. 50-499

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 March 8, 1988, for an amendment to the South Texas Project, Unit 1 Technical Specifications to improve the operational reliability of the toxic gas monitoring system as well as reduce the number of unnecessary engineered safety feature control room heating, ventilation, and air conditioning recirculation actuations.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

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

DFOI
1/1

DISTRIBUTION:
Docket File

J. Calvo
G. Dick
ACRS (10)

NRC PDR
L. Rubenstein
OGC
GPA/PA

Local PDR
P. Noonan
E. Jordan
PD4 Plant File

PD4 Reading
CAbbate
B. Grimes

CONCURRENCE:

PD4/LA
PNoonan
02/16/89

PD4/PE
CAbbate
02/10/89

PD4/PM
GDick
02/17/89

OGC
02/22/89

PD4/D
JCalvo
03/1/89

8903130284 890301
PDR ADDCK 05000499
A PDC



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

March 1, 1989

Docket No. 50-499

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

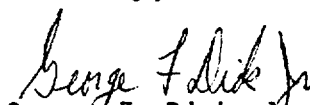
Dear Mr. Goldberg:

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 March 8, 1988, for an amendment to the South Texas Project, Unit 1 Technical Specifications to improve the operational reliability of the toxic gas monitoring system as well as reduce the number of unnecessary engineered safety feature control room heating, ventilation, and air conditioning recirculation actuations.

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

Sincerely,


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

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

Mrs. Peggy Buchorn
Executive Director
Citizens for Equitable Utilities, Inc.
Route 1, Box 1684
Brazoria, Texas 77422

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

South Texas Project

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

Mr. Jonathan Davis
Assistant City Attorney
City of Austin
P. O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Ms. Pat Coy
Citizens Concerned About Nuclear
Power
10 Singleton
Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

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

Mr. A. Zaccaria
Mr. K. G. Hess
Bechtel Corporation
P. O. Box 2166
Houston, Texas 77001

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

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

Mr. J. H. Goldberg
Houston Lighting & Power

- 2 -

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

Mr. Lanny Sinkin,
Counsel for Intervenor
Citizens Concerned about Nuclear Power, Inc.
Christic Institute
1324 North Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20002

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

INPO
Records Center
1100 Circle 75 Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3064

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

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 COMMISSIONHOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-498ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise the provisions in the Technical Specifications (TS) relating to the toxic gas monitoring system.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated March 8, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the TS is required in order to improve the operational reliability of the toxic gas monitoring system as well as reduce the number of unnecessary engineered safety feature (ESF) control room heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) recirculation actuations.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the Technical Specifications. The proposed revision would allow the licensee to: (1) revise the toxic gas monitor ESF actuation logic to provide an actuation

signal on a two-out-of-two logic for monitor failure instead of a one-out-of-two logic as exists in the present design (the high toxic gas actuation of one-out-of-two is retained); (2) provide separate power supplies from non-Class 1E uninterruptable sources to each monitor; (3) provide a separate control room annunciator for "High Toxic Gas Concentration" and "Monitor Trouble"; (4) relocate the sample intake duct nearer the building entrance to reduce the volume of toxic gas which would enter the control room before the isolation dampers close; (5) delete hydrazine from the FSAR and TS as a monitored/isolated actuation chemical because control room habitability calculations demonstrate that the control room operators will not be incapacitated by a postulated hydrazine spill; (6) increase the setpoint for the ammonia channel in the FSAR and TS to 25 parts per million (ppm) because the revised calculations utilizing techniques in NUREG/CR-1741 demonstrate the operators would have adequate time to don breathing apparatus after a toxic gas release before becoming incapacitated; (7) revise the TS response time from 25 seconds to 5 seconds for isolation upon a high toxic gas signal (a total of 80 seconds is allowed to isolate the control room when setpoint concentrations are reached at the monitor sample point in the duct); and (8) revise the FSAR to add acetaldehyde as a monitored chemical.

Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or 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 to

the TS 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 35245). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives 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 reduce operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement (NUREG-1171) 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

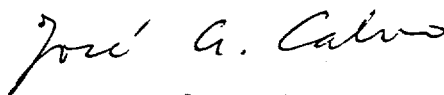
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

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 further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated March 8, 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 Junior College Library, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488 and at the Austin Public Library, 810 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

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

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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