

December 7, 1988

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: SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT - TEMPORARY EXEMPTION
FROM THE SCHEDULAR REQUIREMENTS OF THE DECOMMISSIONING
PLANNING RULE (10 CFR 50.33(k) AND 10 CFR 50.75)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment is related to your letter dated December 2, 1988 in which you requested a temporary exemption from the schedular requirements of the decommissioning rule, 10 CFR 50.33(k) and 10 CFR 50.75. The staff's evaluation of this request will be published in our Safety Evaluation Report, Supplement No. 6.

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

Sincerely,

^{15/}
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:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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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:
Environmental Assessment

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONHOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY, ET AL.SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNIT 2DOCKET NO. 50-499ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTCONCERNING EXEMPTION FROM10 CFR 50.33(k) AND 10 CFR 50.75

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.33(k) and 10 CFR 50.75 to Houston Lighting & Power Company, et al., (the licensee) for the South Texas Project, Unit 2, located at the licensee's site in Matagorda County, Texas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

10 CFR 50.33(k)(1) states, "Each application shall state: for an application for an operating license for a production or utilization facility, information in the form of a report, as described in 50.75 of this part, indicating how reasonable assurance will be provided that funds will be available to decommission the facility." 10 CFR 50.75 establishes requirements for indicating how reasonable assurance will be provided that funds will be available for decommissioning. By letter dated December 2, 1988, the licensee requested a temporary exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.33(k) and 10 CFR 50.75 for South Texas Project, Unit 2. Each

holder of an operating license is required to submit a decommissioning plan on or before July 26, 1990. The licensee proposes to submit the decommissioning plan for Unit 2 at the time it submits the decommissioning plan for Unit 1 for which it holds an operating license, that is by July 26, 1990.

Need for Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption is needed because there has been insufficient time for the licensee to complete all of the actions necessary to submit its decommissioning plan as an operating license application document. The licensee has performed a study of the cost of decommissioning and negotiations have been initiated with potential trustees of an external sinking fund. However, these negotiations have not yet been concluded.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action:

The proposed exemption from 10 CFR 50.33(k)(1) and 50.75 will 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 cumulative radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the proposed exemption would result in no significant radiological environmental impact. Additionally, 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 exemption.

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 exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operation.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any 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 exemption.

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 request for exemption dated December 2, 1988. This document is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, at the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas 77488, and at the Austin Public Library, 810 Guadalupe Street, Austin, Texas 78701. The staff's

evaluation of the request will be published in the Safety Evaluation Report, Supplement No. 6, and will be available for inspection at the locations listed above.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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