

REGULATORY BRANCH COPY

50-498
50-499

OCT 30 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Themis P. Speis, Chief
Reactor Systems Branch, OSI

FROM: A. Schwencer, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 2, DCL

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY BORATION SYSTEM - SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

On February 28, 1980, Houston Lighting and Power (HL&P) submitted a request to MRC for clarification on its request to delete the Emergency Boration System (EBS) at the South Texas Project (STP). The deletion of the EBS was described in Amendment 2 to the FSAR on October 9, 1978. HL&P also points out that the SER for RESAR-414 accepts the EBS deletion for the reference plant. A copy of the February 28 request is attached.

It was my understanding from the previous STP project manager that this request was sent to the Reactor System Branch for review. However, I can find no record of a request from licensing to review the HL&P request to determine whether or not the request should be granted.

At the present time HL&P informs me that other use will be made of the space previously earmarked for the EBS. The engineering design of the plant has now reached a point where design decisions must be made in order to proceed with the design and construction of STP. It is important for proper planning that we advise HL&P of our decision with respect to their request to delete the EBS.

It is requested that the reviewer within your branch review this request and that you provide licensing with a staff position relative to this HL&P request

Early resolution of this question is highly desirable.

Original signed by

A. Schwencer, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

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The Light company

Houston Lighting & Power P.O. Box 1700 Houston, Texas 77001 (713) 228-9211

February 28, 1980
ST-HL-AE- 427
SFN: V-0110

Denton Ross, Acting Director
Division of Project Management
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

South Texas Project Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. STN-498, STN-499
Deletion of Emergency Boration System

Dear Mr. Ross:

The Emergency Boration System injects borated water into the core to provide additional negative reactivity during a postulated steamline break accident. Analysis of the steamline break accident for the South Texas Project without the operation of the Emergency Boration System has shown that the NRC acceptance criteria can still be met.

Houston Lighting & Power described the deletion of the Emergency Boration System (EBS) in Amendment 2 to the FSAR on October 9, 1978. A similar arrangement appears in RESAR-414 and the SER for RESAR-414 accepts the EBS deletion for that reference plant.

To date, we have received no germane questions concerning the EBS deletion.

Uncertainty in the NRC regulatory position is causing some difficulty in finalizing engineering and may cause some construction delays in the near future.

Therefore, HL&P requests clarification of this matter so that if the EBS is required, we will have some time to make the required backfits.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Mr. Shawn S. Rodgers at (713) 676-3397.

Very truly yours,



E. A. Turner
Vice President
Power Plant Construction
and Technical Services

MP/meb

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February 28, 1980

ST-HL-AE-427

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cc: Director, NRC Office of Inspection & Enforcement
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