U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION IV

Report No. 50-498/80-33; 50-499/80-33

Docket No. 50-498; 50-499 Category A2

Licensee: Houston Lighting and Power Company
Post Office Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77001

Facility Name: South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2

Inspection at: South Texas Project, Matagorda County, Texas

Inspection Conducted: November and December 1980

Inspector: W. A. Crossman for H. S. Phillips, Resident Reactor Inspector — Date: 1/14/81

Approved: W. A. Crossman — W. A. Crossman, Chief, Projects Section — Date: 1/14/81

Inspection Summary:

Inspection of November and December 1980 (Report No. 50-498/80-33; 50-499/80-33)
Areas Inspected: Routine, announced inspection by the Resident Reactor Inspector (RRI) including follow-up inspection relative to Show Cause Order commitments; storage and maintenance of components and equipment; structural steel and safety-related welding. This inspection involved fifty-eight inspector-hours by one NRC inspector.
Results: No violations or deviations were identified.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

Principal Licensee Employees

R. A. Frazar, Quality Assurance Manager
L. D. Wilson, Project QA Supervisor (Mechanical)
T. J. Jordan, Supervisor, Quality Systems
R. A. Carvel, Project QA Supervisor (Civil/Structural)

2. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

The RRI provided the licensee a list of commitments closed and those remaining open as of November 18, 1980, which pertained to Show Cause Order Items 1, 5 and 9. On December 17, 1980, the licensee provided a status report to the RRI relative to these items and additional objective evidence relative to the implementation of commitments was provided to the RRI on approximately the same date.

On November 20, 1980, the RRI briefly reviewed the status of all of the above Show Cause Order items during the inspection period. Show Cause Order Item 3.a was reviewed in more detail in order for the RRI to make recommendations relative to the licensee's proposal to resume ASME welding on a limited basis. The RRI determined that sufficient progress had been made to restart ASME welding in accordance with HL&P letter ST-HL-AE-575.

3. Storage and/or Maintenance of Components and Equipment

The RRI inspected all storage areas on site including warehouses, laydown areas, and in-place storage inside containment. Items were inspected in the following categories: containment and structural steel; reactor coolant boundary piping and other safety-related piping; reactor vessel and vessel internals; electrical components including cables; and instrumentation and electrical containment penetrations.

All of the items inspected in the above areas were satisfactorily stored and maintained except as follows:

The RRI found that Unit 1 vessel and internals were protected but the degree of protection did not preclude a fine dust from entering the vessel or the area where the vessel internals were stored. The dust appeared to be the result of the sand blasting operation used to remove the deficient coating inside containment. Workers were cleaning inside the vessel during the RRI's inspection. The workers stated that it is necessary to clean the vessel (stored in place) each week.

The RRI also observed that a sign had been placed near the entrance to the exit which prohibited cutting the locks in order to gain entry. The RRI was also able to enter the vessel unchallanged since entry was not controlled. The door was open because workers were cleaning one level below the entry. Although the doors are ordinarily locked, present access controls may not be adequate to prevent unauthorized entry, during cleaning. This matter will be reviewed during a subsequent inspection.

The two instances described above are instances where the adequacy of control is questionable.

This is an unresolved matter. (498/80-33-1)

4. Structural Steel Welding (Unit 1)

The RRI visually inspected several structural steel weldments of cable tray supports at elevation 35'-0' in Relay Room 202 of the Unit 1 Mechanical-Electrical Auxiliary Building. The weldments were made in accordance with AWS D1.1-75 requirements. The weldments of hangers No. 75 and 57 were visually inspected and appeared to be free of surface defects.

No violations or deviations were identified.

5. Safety-Related Welding of Piping (Unit 1)

The RRI inspected weldments in process and fit up in Component Cooling Water System piping located in Cube 3J of Unit 1 Mechanical-Electrical Auxiliary Building. The following field welds were made in accordance with Welding Procedure MECP-4, Revision 11: Line No. CC1428WA, Welds No. 0006 and 0007.

Weld Process Sheets No. 2006, 2025 and 2059 were reviewed. Quality Control inspectors had inspected the welding of 18 inch diameter pipe, SA106, Grade B material, for cleanliness, preheat, root pass and intermediate passes.

No violations or deviations were identified.

6. Unresolved Items

Unresolved items are matters about which more information is required in order to ascertain whether they are acceptable items, violations or deviations. One unresolved item regarding storage and/or maintenance of the Unit 1 reactor vessel and internals is discussed in paragraph 3.

7. Management Meetings

The RRI met with licensee representatives (denoted in paragraph 1) on December 18, 1980. The RRI summarized the purpose and the scope of the inspection and the findings. The senior licensee representative was informed that no violations were identified; however, one new unresolved item was identified. The licensee understood that these matters require further evaluation.