

# The Light company

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

July 9, 1981  
ST-HL-AE-695  
SFN: V-0540

Mr. Karl Seyfrit  
Director, Region IV  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76012

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

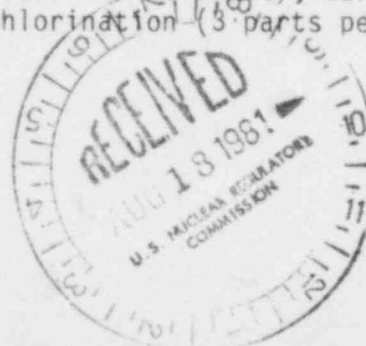
South Texas Project  
Units 1&2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Response to NRC IE Bulletin No. 81-03

Bulletin No. 81-03, received April 10, 1981, has been reviewed by Houston Lighting & Power Company. Investigation of the concerns of the Bulletin has confirmed that the Asiatic clam (Corbicula sp.) is present in the main cooling water reservoir of the South Texas Project. Fresh water is used for cooling at STP; therefore, the salt water Mytilus species of mussel will not be of any concern.

Safety-related components and systems that would be exposed to clams are portions of the Essential Cooling Water (ECW) system. As these systems have not yet been filled with water, no fouling has occurred.

It is our opinion that no safety issue exists due to design of the ECW Intake Structure and System. The intake structure has been designed to minimize "dead" spots, thereby reducing the environment for clam breeding and growth. Strainers with 1/16 inch mesh exist in the flow path, as compared to 3/16 inch at Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO), which should prevent passage of the clams except for the larvae and very young clams 1.5 millimeter or less in size. Thus, the potential for plugging is minimized during operating conditions since the STPEGS ECWS is comparatively better designed to preclude Corbicula infestation.

Monitoring of component and system performance will serve to detect degradation of flow should clam infestation occur. Additionally, during peak spawning periods, more frequent or continual chlorination (3 parts per million



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concentration) is being considered to control the clam buildup. As STPEGS acquires operating experience and the above design and procedures effectiveness can be assessed in regards to the control of Corbicula, the plant engineering staff can evaluate the need for further modifications such as clam traps or local component chlorination equipment.

The environmental monitoring program for STP did not detect the presence of Corbicula sp. in the vicinity of the site. However, a grab sample taken on April 30, 1981, from the plant cooling reservoir included a number of specimens of Corbicula sp. Corbicula evidently populated the region after conclusion of the environmental monitoring program in 1974.

The design of the South Texas Project and the procedures to be followed during operations will minimize the potential for infestations of Asiatic clams. Thus, this Bulletin should have no further impact on STP.

If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Michael E. Powell at (713) 676-8592.

Very truly yours,

*J. H. Goldberg for*  
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Vice President  
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PLW/syt

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