

The Light company

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

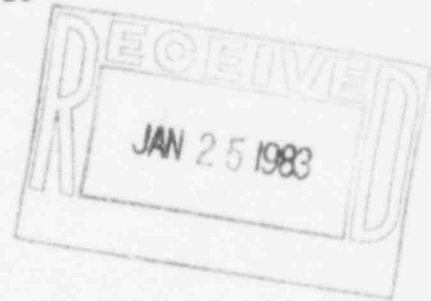
January 24, 1983

ST-HL-AE-929

File No: G2.1
G2.2
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Mr. John T. Collins
Regional Administrator, Region IV
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76012



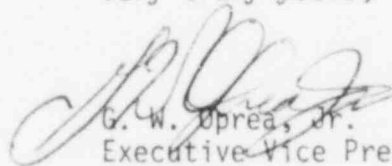
Dear Mr. Collins:

This is to inform you that the 345 KV substation at the South Texas Project site has experienced two cases of insulator flashover since April 1980. Both instances of flashover in the switchyard involved insulators manufactured by the Lapp Insulator Company. The cause of the flashover has not yet been identified but is believed to be a combination of environmental contamination and the properties of this specific insulator. HL&P is working with the Lapp Insulator Company to identify the problem with these insulators.

Our evaluation of the flashover problem has concluded that this situation is not a safety hazard for the South Texas Project and does not meet the criteria for reportability under 10 CFR 21 or 10 CFR 50.55(e). However, if this same type insulator is in use at other nuclear facilities, its failure may need to be evaluated for impact on plant safety.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please get in touch with Mr. M. E. Powell at 713 877-3281.

Very truly yours,


G. W. Oprea, Jr.
Executive Vice President

MRW/na

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Houston Lighting & Power Company

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