



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

APR 14 1993

Docket Nos. 50-498
50-499
License Nos. NPF-76
NPF-80
EA 93-66

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: Donald P. Hall, Group
Vice President, Nuclear
P.O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77251

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-498/93-12; 50-499/93-12

This refers to the special inspection conducted by Mr. J. I. Tapia of this office between February 13 and March 18, 1993. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

The inspection consisted of a review of the issues associated with undersized 120 volt vital ac electrical fuses. Within this area, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, two apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. Please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

The first apparent violation involved a failure to include all design loads in the design of the circuits between the Solid State Protection System Actuation Cabinets and the corresponding 120 volt Vital AC Ungrounded Instrumentation and Control Power Distribution Panels as required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III.

The second apparent violation involved operation of both units in violation of Technical Specification 3.3.2. Since initial facility operation, there was the potential for the actuation relays for safety injection, containment

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isolation, main steam line isolation, turbine trip, main feedwater isolation, and auxiliary feedwater to become inoperable had a main steam line break event occurred.

An enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations is scheduled for April 22, 1993, at 11 a.m. The decision to hold an enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. The purposes of this conference are to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide you the opportunity to point out any errors in our inspection report; and to provide an opportunity for you to present your proposed corrective actions. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: (1) the severity of the violations, (2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and (3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time. In accordance with 10 CFR Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:
Appendix - NRC Inspection Report
50-498/93-03; 50-499/93-03 w/attachment

cc w/enclosure:
Houston Lighting & Power Company
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Wadsworth, Texas 77483

City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
ATTN: J. C. Lanier/M. B. Lee
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

City Public Service Board
ATTN: R. J. Costello/M. T. Hardt
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, Texas 78296

Newman & Holtzinger, P. C.
ATTN: Jack R. Newman, Esq.
1615 L Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Central Power and Light Company
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Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

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Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3064

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State of Texas
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Judge, Matagorda County
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Bay City, Texas 77414

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Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: Rufus S. Scott, Associate
General Counsel
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Houston, Texas 77208

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bcc to DMB (IE14)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

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DRP

Lisa Shea, RM/ALF, MS: MNBB 4503

DRSS-FIPS

Project Engineer (DRP/D)

DRS

G. F. Sanborn, EO

W. L. Brown, RC

A. B. Beach, D/DRP

Resident Inspector

Section Chief (DRP/D)

MIS System

RIV File

R. Bachmann, OGC, MS: 15-B-18

Section Chief (DRP/TSS)

J. Lieberman, OE, MS: 7-H-5

RIV:SRI

JITapia/ir

4/2/93

C:DRP/D

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D:DRP
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4/4/93