

Houston Lighting & Power Company

Electric Tower
P.O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77001

December 18, 1981
ST-HL-AE-769
SFN: V-0530

Mr. John T. Collins
Regional Administrator, Region IV
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76012

Dear Mr. Collins:

South Texas Project
Units 1&2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
Third Interim Report Concerning
Computer Program Verification

On May 8, 1981, Houston Lighting & Power Company, pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), notified your office of an item concerning computer program (code) verification. The verification methods lack adequate visibility to the user as to whether or not the program versions in use had been verified. As stated in our Second Interim Report, the assessment of computer codes has been divided into two phases.

The Phase I activities have been directed at computer work and program usage by the Brown & Root (B&R) Nuclear Analysis discipline. Phase II was to have been a review of codes used by other disciplines.

To assist in the Phase I assessment a consultant firm was engaged by B&R. The review by the consultant firm addresses the appropriateness of the modeling options, acceptability of code usage, and acceptability and adequacy of the methods selected for computer program verification. The consultant has submitted to B&R a preliminary report on the Computer Program Verification Reports. B&R is in the process of reviewing these preliminary comments. A final report by the consultant is scheduled for March, 1982.

Phase I also includes a review of certain calculations that used the subject computer programs. This review would address the appropriateness of the computer codes selected (including options), adequacy of technical approach, and sensitivity of results. The consultant is in the process of performing this review and is scheduled to issue a final report in March, 1982. This report will be studied by both B&R as well as Bechtel Power Corporation to determine what problems, if any, may exist in the nuclear analysis computer codes. To date, there continues to be no technical inadequacy which would represent a safety hazard identified by B&R or the consultant firm with the use of computer programs on STP.

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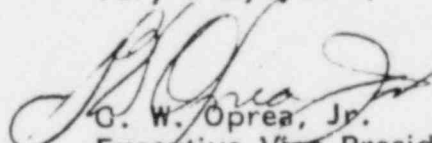
Planned Phase II activities have been modified. In the earlier report we stated that the consultant would assist in the Phase II assessment of computer program usage by B&R disciplines other than Nuclear Analysis. Because of our decision to use Bechtel Power Corporation (BPC) as our Architect/Engineer, the Phase II activity is a part of the transition work package effort.

As discussed with you and your staff, BPC Engineering will perform design reviews necessary to satisfy BPC of the adequacy of the work it accepts and relies upon for use in further design. If there is insufficient evidence of their adequacy, calculations or design verifications that were performed by B&R will be identified as work to be completed by BPC as part of the post-transition design work.

Our next report which will be submitted by June 1, 1981, will provide the results of the consultant's final report and the status of the Bechtel review as it pertains to this item.

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

Very truly yours,


C. W. Oprea, Jr.
Executive Vice President

JGW/mmf

Houston Lighting & Power Company

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