

DEC 27 1989

In Reply Refer To:  
Dockets: 50-498  
50-499

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

Gentlemen:

This letter acknowledges the granting of enforcement discretion to South Texas Project, Unit 1, on December 22, 1989. The enforcement discretion provided temporary relief until 6 p.m. on December 26, 1989, from the provisions of Technical Specification (TS) 3.0.4 regarding entering a higher operational mode when TS limiting conditions for operation (LCOs) are not met and the associated action statement requires a shutdown if the LCOs are not met within a specified interval. Specifically, the enforcement discretion provided temporary relief from the provisions of TS 3.0.4 regarding the requirements of TS 3.7.1.6 and 3.7.8. TS 3.7.1.6 requires shutdown within 7 days if one of the four atmospheric steam relief valves is inoperable. TS 3.7.8 requires shutdown within 7 days if one of the two trains of the fuel handling building (FHB) exhaust air system charcoal absorber heaters is inoperable.

The basis for your request was stated in your letter to this office dated December 26, 1989. You stated that unavailability of one atmospheric steam relief valve does not affect the ability of the plant to be safely shutdown or mitigate the effects of an accident, and that the three remaining atmospheric steam relief valves are adequate for decay heat removal considering single failure. Your letter also stated that previous analysis submitted to the NRC showed minimal impact on offsite doses in the event of an accident with inoperable FHB exhaust air system charcoal adsorber heaters. Continuing reactor startup while actions to exit the 7-day action statements were ongoing was responsive to the state-wide energy emergency occasioned by the recent severe cold weather conditions experienced in Texas.

This letter also acknowledges the granting of an extension of the above enforcement discretion for 2 days or until South Texas Project, Unit 1, enters Mode 1, whichever occurs first. This enforcement discretion extension provides temporary relief until 6 p.m. on December 28, 1989 or until South Texas Project, Unit 1, enters Mode 1, whichever occurs first, from the provisions of TS 3.0.4 regarding the requirements of TS 3.7.1.6 and 3.7.8. The need for this extension was discussed in your letter to us dated December 26, 1989.

RIV:C:DRP/0  
EJHoller;df  
12/26/89

D:DRP  
SJCcollins  
12/26/89

RA:RM  
RBMartin  
12/27/89

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Enforcement discretion, and the extension, was granted after consultation with NRR. We understand from your December 26, 1989, letter, that you anticipate South Texas Project, Unit 1, to enter Mode 1 at approximately midnight on December 26, 1989.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

*J. M. Montgomery*

Robert D. Martin  
Regional Administrator

cc:

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ATTN: R. J. Costello/M. T. Hardt  
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Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Houston Lighting & Power Company

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Resident Inspector  
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Bay City, Texas 77414

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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**bcc to DMB (IE51)**

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