



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

MAR 11 1993

Docket: 5C-498
50-499
License: NPF-76
NPF-80

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

SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF STAFF AUGMENTATION METHODS (UNRESOLVED
ITEM 498/9201-01; 499/9201-01)

This letter concerns information we have reviewed pertaining to your ability to demonstrate effective augmentation of your emergency response organization in a timely manner. In NRC Inspection Report 50-498/92-01; 50-499/92-01, we identified an unresolved item concerning bases for establishing emergency staff augmentation effectiveness. The June 4, 1992, inspection report transmittal letter requested that you provide information for assuring that you meet your Emergency Plan staff augmentation requirements. You responded to this request by letter dated July 3, 1992.

The July 3, 1992, response described the various problems you have encountered with your manual and automatic Emergency Notification and Response System. The response also summarized the test results of call-out drills. Several of these tests were deemed unsuccessful by your staff. Finally, the response described planned future tests of staff augmentation and your plans to develop a revised Emergency Response Organization and associated call-out system. We concluded that the information contained in your July 3, 1992, response did not provide a basis to resolve the question of staff augmentation effectiveness. Therefore, we decided to await further test results following the culmination of your efforts to upgrade your capabilities in this area.

Several subsequent telephone discussions were held between Region IV emergency preparedness analysts and members of your emergency planning organization to discuss test results. According to your staff, the ongoing series of tests continued to show mixed results relative to your capabilities to perform emergency response staff augmentation in a timely manner.

On January 15, 1993, a telephone discussion was held between Messrs. B. Murray, B. Spitzberg, and R. Evans of our organization and Messrs. M. Covell and J. Pinzon of your organization to discuss this matter. During this discussion, your representatives stated that based upon recent successful tests results, you could then and in the future meet the requirements for timely emergency response organization call-out. Your

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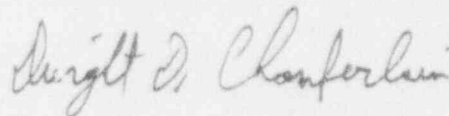
representatives committed to send tests results and descriptions of improvements made to your call-out methods in a letter to NRC. This response letter was dated January 29, 1993.

Your January 29, 1993, response letter described a new emergency response organization call-out system which became effective September 14, 1992. The response stated that 9 off-hours unannounced augmentation drills have been conducted since implementing the new system and that the last three of the drills have met the regulatory requirements and onsite expectations. During a telephone discussion on March 10, 1993, between Dr. Spitzberg and Mr. Covell, your representative stated that drills are still being conducted biweekly to further validate the system's effectiveness. We understand that of the two drills conducted since the January 29 submittal, one was unsuccessful. Your representative again confirmed your assessment that you can meet staff augmentation time requirements in the event of an emergency.

Based upon the information provided to date, we have determined that the unresolved item will remain open until we inspect the detailed information on staff augmentation drills during a future inspection.

If you have any further questions, please contact Dr. D. Blair Spitzberg at (817) 860-8191.

Sincerely,



for L. J. Callan, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

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bcc to DMB (IE35)

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RIV:FIPS <i>175</i>	C:FIPS <i>2</i>	DD:DRSS <i>de</i>	D:DRP	D:DRSS <i>de</i>
DBSpitzberg:nh	BMurray	DDChamberlain	ABBeach	LJCallan <i>fr</i>
3/10/93	3/10/93	3/16/93	3/11/93	3/11/93

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RIV:FIPS <i>173</i>	C:FIPS <i>22</i>	DD:DRSS <i>22</i>	D:DRP	D:DRSS <i>22</i>
DBSpitzberg:nh	BMurray	DDChamberlain	ABBeach	LJCallan <i>fr</i>
3/10/93	3/10/93	3/10/93	3/11/93	3/11/93