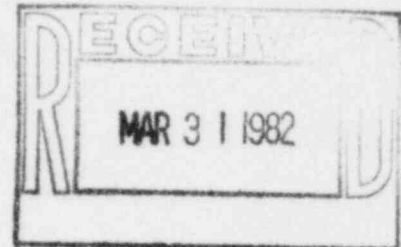


# The Light company

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

March 30, 1982  
ST-HL-AE-811  
SFN: V-0530

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



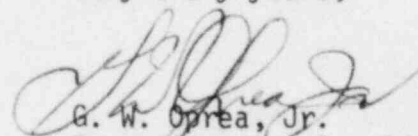
Dear Mr. Collins:

South Texas Project  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Fourth Interim Report Concerning  
Vendor Fabricated Structural Steel

On January 8, 1981, Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), notified your office of an item concerning nonconformances of welds in vendor fabricated Category I structural steel. Our fourth interim report concerning this item is attached. The next report will be submitted to your office by October 15, 1982.

If you should have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael E. Powell at (713) 877-3281.

Very truly yours,

  
G. W. Oprea, Jr.  
Executive Vice President

MEP/blt  
Attachments



IE-27  
3  
11

8204080356 820330  
PDR ADOCK 05000498  
S PDR

Houston Lighting & Power Company

cc: G. W. Oprea, Jr.

J. H. Goldberg

J. G. Deweas

J. D. Parsons

D. G. Barker

C. G. Robertson

R. A. Frazar

J. W. Williams

J. W. Briskin

J. E. Geiger

R. L. Ulrey

S. M. Dew

J. T. Collins (NRC)

D. E. Sells (NRC)

W. M. Hill, Jr. (NRC)

M. D. Schwarz (Baker & Botts)

R. Gordon Gooch (Baker & Botts)

J. R. Newman (Lowenstein, Newman, Reis, & Axelrad)

STP RMS

Director, Office of Inspection & Enforcement

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, D. C. 20555

R. L. Range/G. W. Muench  
Central Power & Light Company  
P. O. Box 2121  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

R. L. Hancock/G. Pokorny  
City of Austin  
P. O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767

J. B. Poston/A. vonRosenberg  
City Public Service Board  
P. O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, Texas 78296

Brian E. Berwick, Esquire  
Assistant Attorney General  
for the State of Texas  
P. O. Box 12548  
Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

Lanny Sinkin  
Citizens Concerned About Nuclear Power  
5106 Casa Oro  
San Antonio, Texas 78233

Jay Gutierrez Esquire  
Hearing Attorney  
Office of the Executive Legal Director  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

ST-HL-AE-811

SFN: V-0530

Page 2

Charles Bechhoefer, Esquire  
Chairman, Atomic Safety & Licensing Board  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dr. James C. Lamb, III  
313 Woodhaven Road  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

Mr. Ernest E. Hill  
Lawrence Livermore Laboratory  
University of California  
P. O. Box 808, L-46  
Livermore, California 94550

William S. Jordan, III  
Harnon & Weiss  
1725 I Street, N. W.  
Suite 506  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Citizens for Equitable Utilities, Inc.  
c/o Ms. Peggy Buchorn  
Route 1, Box 1684  
Brazoria, Texas 77422

Revision Date 2-22-82

#### FOURTH INTERIM REPORT CONCERNING VENDOR FABRICATED STEEL

As previously noted in the third interim report, the initial re-inspection of vendor fabricated structural steel welds, conducted during the period from December 1980 to June 1981, yielded approximately 625 nonconformance reports (NCR's) which were evaluated by Brown & Root Engineering. The evaluation performed on these nonconforming welds determined that in each case the weld, if left uncorrected, would not have created a safety hazard. Approximately ten (10) percent required rework to ensure either that project criteria design allowables were not exceeded, or that construction schedule needs were met.

Based on the consultants' observations and conclusions, as discussed in the last report, the South Texas Project (STP) interpretation of AWS Code requirements has been re-evaluated and weld acceptance criteria have been revised in project inspection procedures to more accurately reflect the Code's intent. Since that report, acceptance criteria for undercut were revised from AWS D1.1-1975 to AWS D1.1-1981 in project specifications and changed in Amendment 21 to the FSAR, dated December 4, 1981. Also, a more realistic, yet conservative, approach was developed for evaluating the NCR's. Hand calculations were carried out in conjunction with the development of a computer program for calculation of a conservative as built weldment stress.

During the period from June to September 1981, approximately 1,000 beams and column members were re-examined utilizing revised inspection guidelines. Using the more realistic approach described above, evaluation of the NCR's resulting from this re-examination has shown a rework rate of approximately 1%. Non-conforming conditions during this re-examination have been dispositioned for rework in order to re-establish design margins. To date, no weld condition has been determined to represent a safety hazard if left uncorrected.

Since September, the remaining planned re-examinations have been concluded and disposition of the resulting NCR's is continuing at this time. Required welding rework will be initiated upon resumption of safety-related welding in the field. Bechtel Power Corporation (BPC) will review the program and results and provide its recommendations prior to closure of this item.