



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

RELATED TO AMENDMENT NOS. 56 AND 45 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. NPF-76 AND NPF-80

HOUSTON LIGHTING & POWER COMPANY

CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OF SAN ANTONIO

CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

DOCKET NOS. 50-498 AND 50-499

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1 AND 2

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated October 21, 1993, Houston Lighting & Power Company, et. al., (the licensee) requested authority to make changes to the Technical Specifications (Appendix A to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-76 and NPF-80) for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2. The proposed changes would modify Technical Specification 6.5.2.8, "Audits," by removing the prescriptive frequency of the required audits. This will allow for performance-based inspection frequencies and is consistent with NUREG-1431, "Standard Technical Specifications - Westinghouse Plants," September 1992.

2.0 EVALUATION

Technical Specification 6.2.5.8, "Audits," contains requirements for time intervals for the performance of audits. These intervals represent the maximum time between audits and do not allow for reduction of audit frequency based on past performance.

The licensee is requesting authority to remove the frequency of audits of unit activities currently specified in TS 6.2.5.8.a through 6.2.5.8.j. Removal of specific frequency requirements will enable management to make decisions based on empirical data/performance history and will enable audit scheduling and resource allocation to cover activities that are in need of coverage at a given time. The licensee is also requesting authority to make minor editorial changes to TS 6.2.5.8. Both the removal of the frequencies and the editorial changes are consistent with Section 5.5.2.3 of NUREG-1431. Section 5.5.2.3 specifies audit requirements for the plant without the required frequencies of these audits. The editorial changes proposed are also consistent with the wording of the corresponding areas in Section 5.5.2.3.

The licensee plans to maintain the audit frequencies in accordance with the quality assurance (QA) audit plan. The licensee states that this will increase the QA program effectiveness. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(a)(3), the licensee may make changes to the audit frequencies under the QA program, unless those changes constitute a reduction in their commitment which must be approved by the NRC prior to implementation. On this basis, the staff concludes that relocating the control of the audit frequencies from the technical specifications to the QA program is acceptable.

The licensee has also proposed a change to TS 6.2.5.8 that is consistent with Section 5.5.2.3 of NUREG-1431 for the removal of audit frequencies and other minor editorial changes. The staff has reviewed these changes and finds them acceptable.

### 3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Texas State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendments. The State official had no comments.

### 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendments relate to changes in recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, the amendments meet the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendments.

### 5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: Suzie M. Wittenberg

Date: December 27, 1993