

February 16, 1994

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-IV-94-004

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

Facility

Houston Lighting & Power Co.
South Texas 1
Wadsworth, Texas
Dockets: 50-498

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

Subject: LIFTING OF CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER AT SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT,
UNIT 1

On February 15, 1994, after receiving a positive recommendation from the South Texas Project (STP) Restart Panel and other members of the Staff, the Regional Administrator lifted the Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) for STP, Unit 1. The CAL, initially issued on February 5, 1993, and supplemented on May 7 and October 15, 1993, had required STP to brief the NRC on the results of their efforts to correct hardware and programmatic deficiencies at STP. This briefing, which was open to public observation, was conducted at the STP facility on February 14, 1994. The Regional Administrator's decision was communicated to the licensee in a letter dated February 15, 1994, and stated that the licensee may proceed, in accordance with the facility's license, with the restart of Unit 1.

The licensee is currently conducting control rod testing. Following the satisfactory completion of that testing and completing other required prestartup checks, the licensee plans to start up the unit late on February 16, 1994. The STP resident inspector staff has been augmented with inspectors from the regional office and other Region IV sites and commenced 24-hour observation of control room activities on February 15, 1994. This augmented inspection effort is planned to be maintained through the unit's restart and power ascension.

The state of Texas will be informed.

This information has been confirmed with a licensee representative.

Contact: M. A. SATORIUS
(817)860-8141

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