

SEP 26 1990

In Reply Refer To:
Dockets: 50-498/90-31
50-499/90-31
EA 90-164

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

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. J. I. Tapia of this office during the period September 12-21, 1990, of activities authorized by NRC Operating Licenses NPF-76 and NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. W. H. Kinsey and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during the inspection involved the onsite followup of the events that occurred at STP, Unit 1, on September 12, 1990, which resulted in exceeding a reactor coolant system temperature of 375°F in Mode 3 operations with one high head safety injection pump inoperable. The inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector. The inspection findings are documented in the enclosed inspection report.

Based on the results of this inspection, one apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C. The apparent violation involves a failure to satisfy the Technical Specification requirement for having all high head safety injection pumps operable prior to exceeding 375°F in the reactor coolant system. Please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

Based on this apparent violation and other recent events caused by personnel error, discussed in paragraph 2 of the enclosed inspection report, NRC is concerned about a lack of attention to detail and a lack of conservatism on the part of licensed and nonlicensed personnel. We are concerned that the repetitive lack of attention to detail may be indicative of undefined underlying causes which need to be identified and corrected.

As discussed with Mr. W. H. Kinsey of your staff on September 20, 1990, an enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation has been scheduled for October 5, 1990, at 10 a.m. in the Region IV office. The purpose of this conference is to discuss the apparent violation, its cause and safety significance; to provide you the opportunity to point out any errors in our inspection report; to provide an opportunity for you to present your proposed

RIV:SRI	C:DRP/D	*EO	*D:DRP
JITapia/lr	JWiebe	GFSanborn	SJCollins
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*previously concurred

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corrective actions; and to discuss any other information that will help us determine the appropriate enforcement action in accordance with the Enforcement Policy. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding this apparent violation is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Dwight Chamberlain

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Division of Reactor Programs

Enclosure:

Appendix - NRC Inspection Report

50-498/90-31

50-499/90-31

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: M. A. McBurnett, Manager
Operations Support Licensing
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

City of Austin Electric Utility
ATTN: J. C. Lanier, Director of
Generation
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78704

City Public Service Board
ATTN: R. J. Costello/M. T. Hardt
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, Texas 78296

Newman & Holtzinger, P. C.
ATTN: Jack R. Newman, Esq.
1615 L Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Central Power and Light Company
ATTN: R. P. Verret/D. E. Ward
P.O. Box 2121
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Records Center
1100 Circle 75 Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3064

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie
50 Bellport Lane
Bellport, New York 11713

Bureau of Radiation Control
State of Texas
1101 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Judge, Matagorda County
Matagorda County Courthouse
1700 Seventh Street
Bay City, Texas 77414

Licensing Representative
Houston Lighting & Power Company
Suite 610
Three Metro Center
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: Rufus S. Scott, Associate
General Counsel
P.O. Box 61867
Houston, Texas 77208

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Resident Inspector
P.O. Box 910
Bay City, Texas 77414

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Regional Administrator, Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

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