



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

APR - 5 1994

Dockets: 50-498  
50-499  
Licenses: NPF-76  
NPF-80

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: William T. Cottle, Group  
Vice President, Nuclear  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-498/93-55; 50-499/93-55

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. D. P. Loveless and the inspectors identified in the attached report, of this office on December 19 through January 29, 1994. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your South Texas Project Electric Generating Station Units 1 and 2, facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, observation of activities in progress, and specific reviews of items requiring closure prior to plant restart. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in Section 2.1 of the enclosed inspection report. The violation is of concern because multiple administrative barriers were bypassed, resulting in the damage of a safety-related valve operator. The specific corrective actions for this event were addressed by your staff. The more generic issue of failure to follow your work control process was considered an additional example of a previous violation and will be addressed in your response to the Notice of Violation issued with NRC Inspection Report 50-499/93-54. Therefore, no additional response is deemed necessary.

During the inspection period, plant maintenance workers removed a blind flange from the component cooling water system in violation of an equipment clearance order. This violation is not being cited because the criteria in paragraph VII.B.1 of Appendix C to 10 CFR Part 2 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice" were satisfied. This violation was identified by the licensee and prompt and effective actions were taken to correct the problem. Other clearance order implementation problems have been noted recently and your

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generic corrective actions have not yet been fully implemented. Improved performance in this important area is essential to avoid personnel injury or damage to safety-related equipment. Appropriate management attention should be devoted to this area.

Plant workers did not question the cause of a loss of lighting on one elevation of the Unit 1 reactor containment building or take steps to restore the lighting until prompted by NRC inspectors. This indicated a lack of a questioning attitude and a willingness to work around problems rather than addressing them directly.

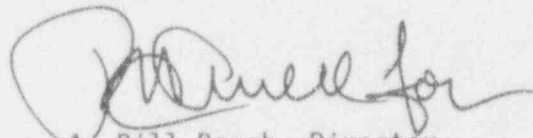
Additionally, during this inspection a review and independent verification of your efforts to reduce the engineering work backlog was performed. Based on the results of this inspection, it was determined that management's efforts to reduce the backlog of engineering work had been effective and that the remaining backlog was manageable and did not contain open safety issues that would hinder a safe restart of Unit 1. Therefore, Restart Issue 5, "The Outstanding Design Modifications, Temporary Modifications, and other Engineering Backlog Items, Including the Licensee's Review of These for Issues Affecting Equipment Operability, Safe Plant Operation, and Operator Work-Arounds," identified in NRC Inspection Report 50-498/93-31; 50-499/93-31, is considered resolved.

Also, during this inspection a review of the actions that you have taken to improve the reliability of the standby diesel generators was performed. Based on the results of this inspection, the Unit 1 standby diesel generators continued to support plant restart.

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

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



A. Bill Beach, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:  
Appendix - NRC Inspection Report  
50-498/93-55; 50-499/93-55

Houston Lighting & Power Company -3-

cc w/enclosure:

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Houston Lighting & Power Company

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E-Mail report to D. Sullivan (DJS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan  
 Branch Chief (DRP/A)  
 MIS System  
 RIV File  
 R. Bachmann, OGC, MS: 15-B-18

Resident Inspector  
 Lisa Shea, RM/ALF, MS: MNBB 4503  
 DRSS-FIPS  
 Project Engineer (DRP/A)  
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

RIV:SRI:DRP/A*	C:DRP/A	D:DRP	
DPLoveless:sa	WDJohnson	ABBach	
3/4/94	3/10/94	3/5/94	

*details*  
 For Attachment 2 only:

DRS*	DRS*	C:DRS/ES*	D:DRS
RVickrey	PAGoldberg	TFWesterman	TPGwynn
3/10/94	3/10/94	3/10/94	4/5/94

\*previously concurred



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*Details*  
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