

OCT 18 1982

Docket Nos.: 50-498  
and 50-499

Mr. G. W. Oprea, Jr.  
Executive Vice President  
Houston Lighting and Power Company  
P. O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

Dear Mr. Oprea:

Subject: Construction Activities at the South Texas Project Site - High Voltage DC Transmission Line

On August 31, 1982 a meeting was held with the staff at the NRC offices in Bethesda to discuss the proposed construction by Central and Southwest Services, Inc. (CSWS) of a high voltage DC transmission line from Walker County, Texas to the South Texas Project (STP) site. This meeting was noticed to all parties of the OL proceeding for STP on August 9, 1982. Subsequent to August 9, 1982 the meeting date was changed from August 19 to August 31, 1982. A list of attendees is attached.

Houston Lighting and Power (HL&P) representatives, along with those from (CSWS) presented the history, planning, and scheduling associated with the construction of the DC transmission line. The staff understands that this line is being built as a result of an interconnection controversy that was aired before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The staff also understands that FERC performed the necessary environmental impact appraisals associated with the construction.

However, to meet the NRC obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) relative to the site and to assure ourselves that there are no safety issues involved in the connection of the STP to the southern terminal of this DC transmission line several actions will be required of HL&P.

It is our understanding that an a.c. line will be extended from the STP switchyard to the southern terminal, which will be located on approximately 17 acres on the north side of the STP site and just east of the construction access road. The construction of this a.c. line will also involve some modifications in the STP switchyard so that no a.c. lines will cross in the switchyard. Since power will be extracted from the STP nuclear units occasionally, and since this activity is within the exclusion area, the staff must consider this a.c. line in its review of the STP. As required by Regulatory Guide 4.2, HL&P, at a minimum, must provide to the staff

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information and data covering the environmental effects of the construction and operation of the a.c. line and the associated modifications within the switchyard to include access. It is also necessary for the HP&L to address any safety considerations that may result from these modifications.

In dealing with the construction, on site, of the southern terminal of the DC transmission line, the staff must review the proposed action relative to NEPA. Paragraph 3E (3) of CPPRs 128 and 129 provides that:

Before engaging in a construction activity not evaluated by the Commission, the Applicant will prepare and record an environmental evaluation of such activity. When the evaluation indicates that such activity may result in a significant adverse environmental impact that was not evaluated, or that is significantly greater than that evaluated in the Final Environmental Statement, the Applicant shall provide a written evaluation of such activities and obtain prior approval of the Director of Reactor Licensing for the activities.

Since the construction will occur on land under the direct control and with the expressed consent of HL&P, it is the staff position that a determination must be made concerning the impact of construction and operation of the facility. Accordingly HL&P should provide the necessary information and data that will allow the staff to meet its obligation under NEPA.

The staff feels that information regarding the proposed construction activities, along with the appropriate analysis, should be transmitted to the NRC under the provisions of paragraph 3E (3) of CPPRs 128 and 129. Therefore, an amendment to your FSAR and ER is not required for construction related information. However, information, data and analysis associated with the operation of the DC transmission line and associated facilities on site should be presented in the form of appropriate amendments to the FSAR and ER, with particular attention being given to access.

If you have any question concerning this matter, or wish to have further discussions, please contact D. Sells (301) 492-7100, the Project Manager.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:  
Thomas M. Novak

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director  
for Licensing  
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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AUGUST 31, 1982

HIGH VOLTAGE DC TRANSMISSION LINE

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G. Gears  
L. Bykoski  
W. Regan

HL&L

M. Wisenberg  
L. Klement  
R. Lawhn  
F. J. Meyer  
M. Axelrad (LNR&A)

CSWS

N. Ranek  
E. Kolodziej  
C. Jasper

CSWS - Central Southerwest Service, Inc.  
LNR&A - Lowenstein, Newman, Reis and Axelrad.