

The Light company

Houston Lighting & Power P.O. Box 1700 Houston, Texas 77001 (713) 228-9211

December 9, 1982

ST-HL-AE-918

SFN: J-5000

PFN: M5.2

Mr. J. T. Collins
Regional Administrator, Region IV
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76012

South Texas Project
Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT CONCERNING WELDS
IN THE ESSENTIAL COOLING WATER SYSTEM

Dear Mr. Collins:

As a result of Show Cause Order of April 30, 1980, Houston Lighting and Power Company (HL&P) committed to the re-examination of all ECW safety-related welds made prior to April 30, 1980. By April 30, 1982, Engineering and Construction Management of the South Texas Project (STP) had been transferred to Bechtel and construction had been transferred to Ebasco. The new contractors have reviewed the status of the ECW piping system.

Pursuant to discussions with your staff on the subject matter, the following describes our program. For welds made prior to April 30, 1980, the acceptance criteria used for evaluation of radiography will be the ASME Code, Paragraph ND-5322. The application of ND-5322 acceptance criteria will provide a single consistent basis for weld acceptance under the ASME III Code. All new welds for the ECW System (including replacement welds of those cut out for construction expediency) are being made in accordance with the FSAR commitment to meet the requirements of ASME Code, Section III, Class 3. In addition, the following improvements have been implemented for new welds.

1. Bechtel and Ebasco procedures now require a backing ring configuration which improves root weldability and avoids root lack of fusion.
2. All welders are qualified by radiography to ASME Code, Section IX.

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Houston Lighting & Power Company

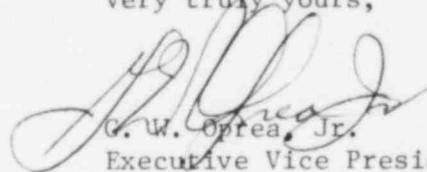
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3. Additionally, all ECW welders are subjected to further skill demonstration tests on full-scale mock-ups in the horizontal and vertical positions. These welds are subjected to radiographic examination. Each welder's workmanship must produce x-ray quality welds prior to the performance of production welding.

If you should have further questions, please advise.

Very truly yours,



G. W. Oprea, Jr.
Executive Vice President

JLB/jlk

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Revision Date 10-18-82