

The Light company

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

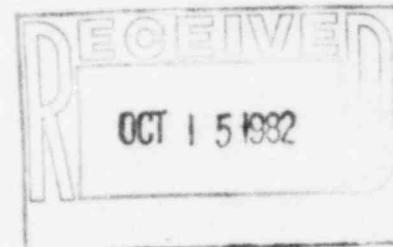
October 15, 1982

ST-HL-AE-893

File Number: G12.84

SFN: V-0530

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



Dear Mr. Collins:

South Texas Project
Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
Fifth Interim Report Concerning
Vendor Fabricated Structural Steel

On January 8, 1981, pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) notified your office of an item concerning nonconformances of welds in vendor fabricated Category I structural steel. These welds were performed at the fabricator's facility and were not associated with the on-site welding program.

In our fourth interim report, submitted to your office by letter dated March 30, 1982, we identified that Bechtel would review the previous program and results and provide their recommendations prior to closure of this item.

Bechtel has initiated a program to review and evaluate the previously generated Nonconformance Reports (NCR's) associated with this item. These NCR's were initiated as a result of Brown & Root's (B&R's) field reinspection program for American Bridge structural steel. The evaluations performed by Bechtel will be based upon the B&R reinspection results. The evaluation of the NCR's is being utilized by Bechtel to develop a data base for a statistical analysis which is to be used to postulate whether statistically significant strength related welding deficiencies (i.e., undercut and undersize) exist in welds that were not examined or are now inaccessible. The final evaluation and disposition of such postulated and existing strength related defects is to be based on the project's revised acceptance criteria for inspection of AWS field welds. This criteria for inspection of AWS field welds will be provided in a future FSAR Amendment. Where acceptance criteria are exceeded an analysis to assess structural integrity will be performed.

Structurally less significant nonconformances such as convexity, arc strikes, and weld spatter are being dispositioned by Bechtel on the basis of a review performed by a consultant. The consultant (Battelle Columbus Laboratories), as part of their evaluation of similar nonconformances identified in the review of the B&R safety-related field welding program, has

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Houston Lighting & Power Company

concluded that convexity, arc strikes and weld spatter in ASTM A36 steel have only localized effects, inconsequential to the structural integrity of the weldment.

Bechtel also concluded that ASTM A36 steel in typical welded connections is fracture safe at the minimum service temperatures that prevail at the South Texas Project.

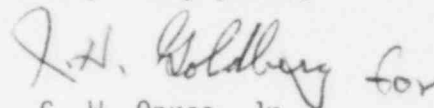
Prior to any further shipment of Category I structural steel components by American Bridge, Bechtel will assure that a surveillance inspection on 100% of all welded material was or will be performed consistent with the specification. These actions will serve to prevent a recurrence of nonconforming weld conditions.

To date no safety hazard has been identified relative to these nonconforming weld conditions.

The next report concerning this item will be submitted to your office by May 9, 1983.

If you should have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Michael E. Powell at (713) 877-3281.

Very truly yours,



G. W. Oprea, Jr.
Executive Vice President

MEP/mg

Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Revision Date 08-23-82