



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

JUL 21 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 50-498/94-10; 50-499/94-10 (NOTICE OF VIOLATION)

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. D. P. Loveless, and the inspectors identified in the attached report, of this office on March 13 through April 23, 1994. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you and 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 inspection of plant equipment material condition. In addition to routine observations by the resident inspectors, this inspection included special, augmented inspection coverage during Unit 1 startup and power ascension. This augmented coverage included 24-hour per day inspection of plant activities, such as operator performance in the control room, shift turnover, operator plant tours, independent plant tours, verification of compliance with Technical Specifications, maintenance in progress, prejob briefings, surveillance testing, postmaintenance testing, and startup testing.

The inspectors found that licensed operator performance in the control room was good, with improvement noted in professionalism, self-assessment and corrective action, self-verification, control of operator license candidates, and senior operator command and control. However, some weaknesses and inconsistencies were noted in the areas of control room communications, compliance with procedures, and control room logkeeping.

The inspectors selected 38 Technical Specification requirements for independent verification. Your staff was found to be properly implementing each of these requirements.

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Based on the results of this inspection, certain activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in Sections 5.6, 5.12, 7.1.6, and 7.10 of the enclosed inspection report. This violation is of concern because the number of examples of failure to follow plant procedures indicates a need for continued management attention in this area. Also, two examples of the violation indicated that reactor operators were not always maintaining appropriate control room logs.

Additionally, during the inspection period, inspectors identified a contamination zone that was neither posted nor barricaded. Although this is a violation of your radiological program procedures, it will not be 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 NRC inspectors, but it was of only minor safety significance because of the short duration, the presence of a health physics technician, and because no unauthorized personnel had entered the zone.

The use of equipment clearance order danger tags as an administrative substitute for locks on valves was viewed as a weakness in your locked valve control program. This practice would be unacceptable for valves in flow paths controlled by Technical Specifications and is unresolved pending further review.

This report also includes an NRC staff assessment of your performance following the restart of Unit 1 and power increase to the 90 percent power plateau. This assessment was discussed with you and members of your staff in a public meeting at the plant site on April 8, 1994. This meeting was subsequently documented in my letter dated April 18, 1994.

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. The response directed by this letter and enclosed Notice is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

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

Sincerely,

DeWay
for A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A - Notice of Violation
2. Appendix B - NRC Inspection Report
50-498/94-10; 50-499/94-10

cc w/enclosures:

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: James J. Sheppard, General Manager
Nuclear Licensing
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
ATTN: J. C. Lanier/M. B. Lee
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78704

City Public Service Board
ATTN: K. J. Fiedler/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: G. E. Vaughn/T. M. Puckett
P.O. Box 2121
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

INPO
Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

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

Bureau of Radiation Control
State of Texas
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Office of the Governor
ATTN: Susan Rieff, Director
Environmental Policy
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

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

Egan & Associates, P.C.
ATTN: Joseph R. Egan, Esq.
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

JUL 21 1994

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, OG, MS: 15-B-18

Resident Inspector

Leah Tremper, OC/LFDCB, MS: MNBB 4503

DRSS-FIPB

Project Engineer (DRP/A)

Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

RIV:SRI <i>Jfor</i>	PE:DRP/A <i>Jfor</i>	C:DRP/A <i>J</i>	D:DRP <i>Jfor</i>	
DPLoveless	WBJones	WDJohnson	<i>ABBeach</i> <i>per tech on ARS</i>	
7/14/94	7/14/94	7/14/94	7/21/94	

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