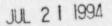
UNITED STATES



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400 ARLINGTC:., TEXAS 76011-8064



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-ascessment 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,

Julyer

A. Bill Beach, Director Division of Reactor Projects

Houston Lighting & Power Company -

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

-3-

Houston Lighting & Power Company

-4-

Office of the Governor ATTN: Susan Rieff, Director Environmental Policy P.D. 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 Houston Lighting & Power Company -5-

JUL 2 1 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, OGu, 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 Q Los	PE:DRP/ACA	C:DRP/A Q	D:DRP SWY
DPLoveless	WBJones		A ABBeach putters
7/14/94	7/14/94	7/14/94	7/21/94

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RIV: SRI Q/m	PE:DRP/ACLA	C:DRP/A Q	D:DRP SU	
DPLoveless	WBJones	WDJohnson	& ABBeachpetter	
7/14/94	7/14/94	7/14/94	7/21/94	

-5-