50-498

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 13, 1994

Mr. William T. Cottle
Group Vice President Nuclear
Houston Lighting & Power Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI) REGARDING GENERIC LETTER 93-04, "ROD CONTROL SYSTEM FAILURE AND WITHDRAWAL OF ROD CLUSTER CONTROL ASSEMBLIES, 10 CFR 50.54(f)" (TAC NOS. M86868 AND M86869)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

By letters dated August 5, September 20, and October 12, 1993, you responded to Generic Letter (GL) 93-04. The October 12, 1993, response discussed the possibility of conducting a new current order surveillance test and a current order timing modification.

The staff, by letter dated November 10, 1994, to the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG), approved the following documents: (1) WCAP-13864, Rev. 1, "Rod Control System Evaluation Program," (2) Westinghouse Technical Bulletin NSD-TB-94-05-RO, "Rod Control CRDM Timing Change," and (3) "WOG Recommended Rod Control System Surveillance Test." The current order timing modification does not affect normal rod motion, but prevents asymmetric rod withdrawal should a Salem-type failure occur. This modification was successfully tested at the Ginna Station on April 15, 1994. The new current order surveillance test (to be done each refueling outage) verifies that no failures exist in the Rod Control System current order circuits. The staff finds that the WOG's response, as discussed in the above Westinghouse documents, is an acceptable long-term resolution to GL 93-04.

The staff requests that you either commit to implement the current order timing modification and the new current order surveillance test (to be done each refueling outage), as described in the above Westinghouse documents, prior to startup from the next refueling outage that begins later than three months from receipt of this letter, or provide an alternative long-term plan and schedule. The staff also encourages you to consider implementation at your first opportunity. We request your response within 30 days from receipt of this letter. In addition, after you have implemented the current order timing modification and the new current order surveillance test, you are requested to inform the staff in writing.

The information collection contained in this request is covered by the Office of Management and Budget clearance number 3150-0011, which expires July 31, 1997. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is covered by the original estimate, which was estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and

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completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0011), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Sincerely,

Thomas W. Alexion

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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