

NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

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COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CHARLES CONKLIN  
STAFF DIRECTOR  
STANLEY BOOVLIE  
ASSOCIATE STAFF DIRECTOR  
AND COUNSEL  
LEE MC ELVAIN  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
TIMOTHY W. GLIDDEN  
REPUBLICAN COUNSEL

7A-50

To J. O'Connell  
To DeYoung  
For File

October 30, 1981

George L  
Cut  
Harry  
11/12/81

The Honorable Nunzio Palladino  
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have recently received a report entitled "Design Review of Brown and Root Engineering Work for the South Texas Project." In addition to raising explicit questions as to the adequacy of the South Texas Project design, the report raises implicit questions as to how the deficiencies of the kind enumerated in the report could have escaped detection by the NRC.

In my letter of August 20 on the Zimmer project, I referred to General Accounting Office remarks regarding the tardiness of the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement in confronting allegations of harassment of quality control inspectors at South Texas. The Quadrex report suggests additional reason to doubt the efficacy of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement in monitoring activities at this site.

As you know, there is a widespread belief among members of Congress that quality assurance problems such as those suggested by Quadrex at South Texas (as well as those recently revealed at Diablo Canyon) simply do not exist. It is important, therefore, that the Commission come forth with a statement presenting: (A) the reasons that defects of these kinds remained so long undetected; and (B) an explanation of what is being done to uncover any such situations at other plants.

Please be prepared to discuss the South Texas matter and the information requested in the foregoing paragraph at the Subcommittee's November 11 hearing on quality assurance.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

MORRIS K. UDALL  
Chairman

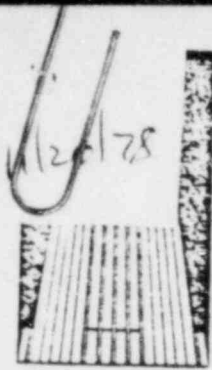
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50-498

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W



Houston  
Lighting  
& Power  
Company

Electric Tower  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

November 20, 1978  
ST-HL-AE-307

Director, Region IV  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Suite 1000  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive  
Arlington, Texas 76102

IE FILE COPY

Dear Sir:

South Texas Project  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Interim Report on the Reportable Deficiency  
Concerning Containment Voids for Unit 1 of  
the South Texas Project

On October 20, 1978, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55(e)(2), Houston Lighting & Power Company notified your office of concrete voids behind the liner plate in the reactor building exterior wall. If left uncorrected, these voids could have compromised the structural integrity of the containment in that the containment as built could not meet its design load criteria. Repair methods to restore the appropriate level of safety to the containment are being investigated. These methods will be tested and the results analyzed before they are implemented.

The repairs should be completed by May, 1979. At that time a final report providing a description of the deficiency, an analysis of the safety implications and the corrective actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of the problem will be submitted to your office.

Very truly yours,

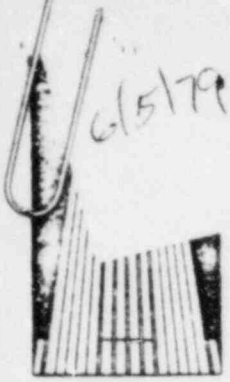
E. A. Turner  
Vice President  
Power Plant Construction  
& Technical Services

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SSR:jak

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~~7811300216~~ PDR/LPDR



Houston  
Lighting  
& Power  
Company

Electric Tower  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston Texas 77001

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June 5, 1979  
SFN: V-0540  
ST-HL-AE-346

Director, Region IV  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76102

Dear Sir:

South Texas Project  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Final Report on the Reportable  
Deficiency Concerning Concrete Voids  
In the Unit 1 Reactor Containment  
Building

The attached report is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55(e)(3). On October 20, 1978, Houston Lighting and Power notified your office of concrete voids behind the liner plate in the reactor building exterior wall. This final report provides a description of the deficiency, summary of the safety analysis and corrective actions taken to repair the voids and to prevent their recurrence. Further questions should be directed to Mr. D. G. Barker, Manager, South Texas Project at (713) 676-8891.

Very truly yours,

E. A. Turner  
Vice President  
Power Plant Construction  
& Technical Services

LRJ:bf

- cc: Director, NRC Office of Inspection & Enforcement ✓
- C. Thrash (Baker & Botts)
- R. Gordon Gooch (Baker & Botts)
- J. R. Newman (Lowenstein, Newman, Reis, Axelrad & Toll)
- D. G. Barker
- A. J. Granger
- R. A. Frazar

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PDR/LPDR

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U  
HOUSTON  
Lighting  
& Power  
Company

Electric Tower  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

Director of NRC Office of  
Inspection & Enforcement

IE FILE COPY

July 16, 1979  
ST-HL-AE-362  
SFN: V-0100

Director, Region IV  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76102

Dear Sir:

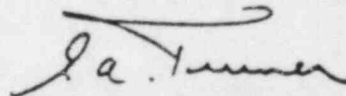
South Texas Project  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Interim Report on the Reportable  
Deficiency Concerning Concrete  
Voids in the Eighth Lift of the  
Unit 1 Reactor Containment Building

On June 18, 1979, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55(e) (2), Houston Lighting & Power Company notified your office of concrete voids behind the liner plate in the eighth lift of the reactor building exterior wall. A thorough and detailed plan for investigating the entire eighth lift has been prepared. A more complete report should be available on or about August 15, 1979.

Lift 8 has been entirely mapped by sounding techniques to locate those areas with apparent lack of contact of concrete with the steel liner. Eleven holes have been drilled in suspect areas around the equipment hatch area and an additional 138 holes will be drilled in other areas of the liner. Three voids have been detected thus far.

Further questions on this incident should be directed to Mr. D. G. Barker at (713) 676-8891.

Very truly yours,



E. A. Turner  
Vice President  
Power Plant Construction  
& Technical Services

LRJ:bf

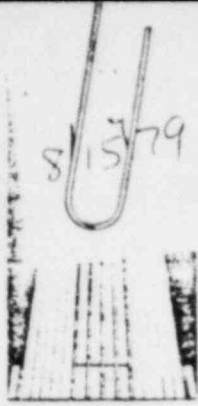
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PDR/LPDR

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Houston  
Lighting  
& Power  
Company

Electric Tower  
PO Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

IE FILE COPY

August 15, 1979  
ST-HL-AE-369  
SFN: V-0100

Director, Region IV  
Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76102

Dear Sir:

South Texas Project  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Second Interim Report on the Reportable Deficiency  
Concerning Concrete Voids in the Eighth Lift of the  
Unit 1 Reactor Containment Building

On July 16, 1979, pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), Houston Lighting & Power Company provided your office with an interim report concerning concrete voids behind the liner plate in the Eighth Lift of the Reactor Building exterior wall. The letter indicated that a more complete report would be submitted on or about August 15, 1979. The attached report provides a description of the deficiency, the investigation of the deficiency, and the current corrective action being taken. The tentative date for completion of the repair is January 19, 1980, followed by a final report one month later. Additional discussion or questions should be directed toward Mr. L. R. Jacobi, (713) 676-7953.

Very truly yours,

E. A. Turner  
Vice President  
Power Plant Construction  
& Technical Services

SSR:bf

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2/18/80 on  
g  
over  
Company

Electric Tower  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

February 18, 1980  
ST-HL-Ae-419  
SPN: V-0530

Mr. Karl Seyfrit  
Director, Region IV  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76102

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

South Texas Project  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
Final Report on the Reportable Deficiency  
Concerning Concrete Voids in the Eighth Lift  
Of the Unit 1 Reactor Containment Building

On June 18, 1979, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55 (e), Houston Lighting & Power Company notified your office of concrete voids behind the liner plate in the eighth lift of the reactor building exterior wall. The Second Interim Report of August 15, 1979, indicated that the final report was to be completed on February 19, 1980. Attached is the final report on this deficiency, describing the cause and extent of the problem and the corrective action that has been taken.

Further questions should be directed to Mr. L. R. Jacobi, (713) 676-7953.

Very truly yours,

*G. W. Oprea Jr.*  
G. W. Oprea Jr.  
Executive Vice President

CWO/sra  
Attachment  
cc: Members of the South Texas  
Management Committee

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COPY SENT REGION IV

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

APR 25 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Bradford  
THRU: W. J. Dircks (Signed) William J. Dircks  
Acting Executive Director for Operations  
FROM: Victor Stello, Jr., Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
SUBJECT: CONCRETE VOIDING AT THE SOUTH TEXAS PLANT

This is in response to your memorandum on this subject dated April 18, 1980.

The scope of the briefing on April 15, 1980 was to inform the Commission of the results of the investigation into harassment and intimidation of contractor quality assurance personnel and the current effectiveness of the QA/QC program at the South Texas Plant. As we stated in the briefing, there are some matters related to the history of this facility which are still under review. The question of voids is one of those matters.

As indicated below we were aware of the voids in Units 1 and 2 containment structures and knew that their repair was under way. Similar voiding in these same locations has been observed at other facilities. With the exception of the voiding problem, no other concrete quality problems were known to exist and concrete quality at the South Texas Project at this point generally appears to be at least acceptable. During the repairs a section of liner plate was damaged as a result of water pressure between the liner plate and the concrete. Water was being used to determine the volume of voids. This area has not as yet been repaired.

We are and have been aware of the occurrence of extensive voiding in the Unit 1 and less extensive voiding in Unit 2 containment structures at the South Texas Plant. The licensee has reported on concrete voiding in 50.55(e) reports dated November 20, 1978, June 5, 1979, July 16, 1979, August 15, 1979 and February 18, 1980. Copies of those reports are enclosed. In addition, less extensive voiding has been reported in connection with other structures (see enclosed 50.55(e) report dated April 14, 1978). Region IV has reported on concrete voiding in the enclosed IE Reports 50-498/79-12 and 50-498/80-1.

The largest void in terms of volume identified in connection with Unit 1 containment was located above the equipment hatch below a liner plate stiffener and did not extend through the wall. There were smaller voids that extended

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Contact: H. D. Thornburg, IE  
49-28484  
(8005140296) PDR

H. Shapiro, FLO

5/13/80

*[Handwritten signature]*  
IL

MEMORANDUM FOR: Commissioner Bradford (Copy to William J. Dircks)

THRU: W. J. Dircks, Acting Executive Director  
for Operations

FROM: Victor Stello, Jr., Director, Office of Inspection  
and Enforcement

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FOR IE ACTION ON TERMINATED QC (CIVIL)  
INSPECTORS AT THE SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

This is in response to your request of April 21, 1980, that IE interview civil QC inspectors who had terminated their employment as inspectors at the South Texas Project site. In order to ensure a timely response to your request we interviewed individuals by telephone.

The licensee, Houston Lighting and Power (HL&P), provided a list of all personnel who had at one time worked in a Quality Control (Civil) capacity at the site but who had either taken another assignment at the site, or who had terminated their employment and left the site. The total number of individuals we identified in this category was sixty-nine (69). HL&P provided addresses for most of these individuals. Provided below is a breakdown of those former QC inspectors we were able to trace from that original list of sixty-nine.

- 5\* Individuals had previously been interviewed by OIA and indicated they terminated for specific and varying reasons as identified in a forthcoming OIA Report of Investigation.
- 7\* Individuals were interviewed previously by IE with only one claiming he was fired due to harassment from B&R management (unsubstantiated)
- 2 Individuals were not readily traceable (no address upon termination) and had not been previously interviewed.
- 3 Individuals now working at the site for Brown and Root, but not in QC.
- 1 Individual now working at Houston for Brown & Root.

\* Individuals contacted by the NRC at some time after termination as a Brown and Root QC (Civil) inspector

CONTACT: R. E. Shewmaker, IE  
49-27551

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5/28/80  
May 28, 1980

Mr. Victor Stello, Jr. P. 4 04  
Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

II  
McGunnen/Rothschild  
Gray Treby  
FF

Dear Mr. Stello:

On May 27, 1980, Citizens Concerned About Nuclear Power, Inc. and Citizens for Equitable Utilities sent a telegram to you with a copy to the Office of the Executive Legal Director requesting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission convene a public hearing on its Order To Show Cause (Effective Immediately) dated April 30, 1980 and directed at Houston Lighting and Power, licensee for the South Texas Nuclear Project (Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499). The Order provided that the "licensee or any other person whose interest may be affected by this Order may request a hearing within twenty-five days of this Order." As the 25th day was May 25, a Sunday, and as May 26 was a holiday, CCANP and CEU understand May 27, the date of the telegraphed request, to be the last day for such a request and submitted this request accordingly.

As supportive evidence for this request, CCANP and CEU offer the following:

1. The violations found in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigation of November, 1979 through February, 1980 are not isolated events but rather part of a consistent and disturbing pattern. The notification letter from the NRC to Houston Lighting and Power stated: "The deficiencies in the Brown and Root program were so extensive that they should have been readily detected."

2. A major area of violation was the Quality Assurance/Quality Control program. This program is supposed to assure the plant is properly built. A failure in this program could produce a plant which is a potential threat to the health and safety of both those working within the plant and the general public. The Order to Show Cause (Effective Immediately) states:

"The allegations of harrassment, intimidation, and lack of support of QC inspectors were substantiated during the investigation and demonstrate shortcomings in the management or poor management attitude and practices at the STP. Further, the results of the investigation establish that the QA/QC program at the South Texas Project is deficient and does not meet the standards required to assure that STP will be constructed to NRC requirements. (Order, page 9; emphasis added)

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

JUN 3 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: K. V. Seyfrit, Director, RIV

FROM: H. D. Thornburg, Director  
Division of Reactor Construction Inspection

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH HOUSTON POWER AND LIGHT MANAGEMENT -  
MAY 30, 1980

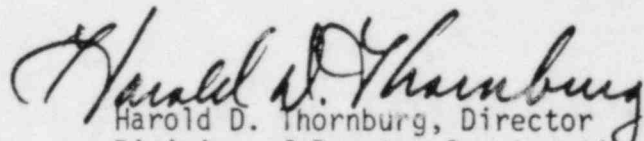
This is to inform you of the results of a meeting with representatives of Houston Power and Light in V. Stello's office on May 30, 1980 starting at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was requested by the licensee on May 22, 1980.

The following persons attended the meeting:

- D. Jordan, President, Houston Power and Light
- G. Oprea, Vice-President, Houston Power and Light
- J. Newman, Attorney, representing Houston Power and Light
- \*V. Stello, Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement
- J. Murray, Director, OELD
- J. Lieberman, Deputy Director, OELD
- H. Thornburg, Director, RCI
- J. Taylor, Deputy Director, RCI
- \*R. Shewmaker, Senior Engineer, RCI

The Houston Power and Light representatives indicated that they had requested the meeting to express their intent to respond positively and effectively to the recent enforcement action taken in the South Texas Case (Order to Show Cause and Civil Penalty). They summarized some of the actions they had already taken and planned to take. They also sought clarification on some aspects of the Order.

The NRC took the position that Houston Power and Light should take whatever action it considers appropriate to convince the Director, IE and, later, the Hearing Board that construction at the facility was adequate. It was also emphasized that attention should be directed to more than paper review and modification in providing their response.

  
Harold D. Thornburg, Director  
Division of Reactor Construction Inspection

\*Attended meeting part time

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~~800016271~~ PDR

6/10/80

*Handwritten notes*

BAKER & BOTTS  
ONE SHELL PLAZA  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1701 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 457-5500

TELEPHONE (713) 229-1234

1980 JUN 10 11 53

TELEX 76-2779  
TELECOMMUNICATION  
(713) 229-1523 HOUSTON  
(202) 457-5531 WASHINGTON, D.C.

H-2480-760  
Houston Lighting &  
Power Company  
(STP/Application  
for Operating License)

June 10, 1980

Mr. Bill Bedman  
Legal Department  
Brown & Root, Inc.  
Post Office Box Three  
Houston, Texas 77001

II  
Schink / Black  
Reis  
FF

Dear Mr. Bedman:

This letter is to confirm our understandings: (i) that the Brown & Root brochure titled "Implementation of the Brown & Root Quality Assurance Program at the South Texas Project Jobsite" and the associated videotape, both of which were the subject of seminars conducted by Brown & Root on or about January 4, 1980, for personnel working at the South Texas Project site in Matagorda County, Texas, have been recalled and withdrawn from circulation; but (ii) that a copy will be retained by you as counsel for Brown & Root and will be available as evidence both in the activities relating to the Order to Show Cause issued to Houston Lighting & Power Company by the Director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Inspection and Enforcement on April 30, 1980, and in conjunction with the pending application for operating licenses from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for South Texas Project Units 1 and 2.

Mr. James Lieberman, counsel for the Director of the Commission's Office of Inspection and Enforcement, and Mr. Lanny Sinkin, a representative of Citizens Concerned About Nuclear Power, an intervenor in the proceeding on the application for operating license, have requested that both brochure and videotape not be destroyed.

Very truly yours,

*Finis E. Cowan*  
Finis E. Cowan

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