

FEB 26 1992

Docket Nos. 50-498  
50-499  
License Nos. NPF-76  
NPF-80

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: Donald P. Hall, Group  
Vice President, Nuclear  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77251

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-498/91-34; 50-499/91-34 (NOTICE OF VIOLATION)

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. J. I. Tapia and other members of this office during the period December 21, 1991, through February 1, 1992. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with 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, and observations of activities in progress.

An unresolved item is identified in Section 5.5. The adequacy of essential chiller maintenance procedures is unresolved pending additional inspection followup.

On the basis of the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The violation is of concern because it represents a less than complete understanding of Technical Specification containment integrity requirements by a broad range of personnel in your staff. This violation was classified as a Severity Level IV violation because of minimal safety significance. The reactor coolant system pressure boundary was intact, and the main steam isolation valves and other main steam valves, although not leak tested, were closed. As a result there was no release path from inside the containment building to the outside of the containment building. Nevertheless, I encourage you to closely review the circumstances associated with this event when formulating your corrective actions.

*RIV:SRI	*RI	*DRP/D	D:DRP
JITapia/lr	RJEvans	A:Howell	APBeach
2/ /92	2/ /92	2/ /92	2/26/92

IEO 1

\*previously concurred

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PDR ADDCK 0500049B  
G PDR

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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 are 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,

*Original Signed By:*  
**A. B. BEACH**

A. Bill Beach, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A - Notice of Violation
2. Appendix B - NRC Inspection Report, w/attachment  
50-498/91-34  
50-499/91-34

cc w/enclosures:

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

City of Austin  
Electric Utility Department  
ATTN: J. C. Lanier/M. B. Lee  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767

City Public Service Board  
ATTN: R. J. Costello/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: D. E. Ward/T. M. Puckett  
P.O. Box 2121  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

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Records Center  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3064

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

Bureau of Radiation Control  
State of Texas  
1101 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756

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

bcc to DMB (IE01)

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DRSS-RPEPS  
RIV File  
RSTS Operator

Resident Inspector  
Section Chief (DRP/D)  
MIS System  
Lisa Shea, RM/ALF  
R. Bachmann, OGC  
Project Engineer (DRP/D)

Houston Lighting & Power Company

-3-

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