

JAN 29 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. 50-498/91-30; 50-499/91-30 (NOTICE OF VIOLATION)

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. J. I. Tapia and other members of this office during the period November 16 through December 20, 1991. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your South Texas Project, 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.

On the basis of the results of this inspection, certain of your activities were in violation of NRC requirements. A failure to follow procedures during local leak rate testing was a contributing cause of the failure of a reactor coolant pump motor lower radial bearing. Although the actions you have taken to minimize events and problems caused by procedural noncompliance and inattention to detail have been partially effective, this violation is of concern because it indicates a need for further improvement in the area of procedural adherence during the performance of safety-related activities.

During this inspection period, several emergency diesel generator (EDG) problems were identified. EDG fuel oil subsystem problems noted during this and previous inspection periods are currently being assessed by your staff and the Cooper-Bessemer Owners' Group. In addition, a crack on a 30-inch essential cooling water system outlet pipe was identified. Your staff has determined that the crack was related to a weld repair of a previous through-wall crack that was caused by dealloying of the weld filler metal and a pre-existing defect. A management meeting, requested by NRC, is scheduled for

RIV: SRI  
JITapia/tr  
1/29/92

RI  
RJEvans  
1/29/92

C: DRP/B  
ATHowe  
1/29/92

D: DRP  
ABBeach  
1/29/92

IE01  
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PDR ADCCK 05000498  
Q PDR

March 13, 1992, in order to discuss your current and planned actions to resolve EDG fuel oil subsystem problems and essential cooling water system dealloying.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (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, 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

Enclosure:

Appendix A - Notice of Violation  
Appendix B - NRC Inspection Report (w/attachment)  
50-498/91-30  
50-499/91-30

cc w/enclosure:

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

Houston Lighting & Power Company

-3-

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

INPO  
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 D:IB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:  
R. D. Martin  
DRP  
DRS  
DRSS-RPEPS  
RIV File  
RSTS Operator

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

bcc distrib. by RIV:

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JRP

DRS

DRSS-RPEPS

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