



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

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March 24, 1986

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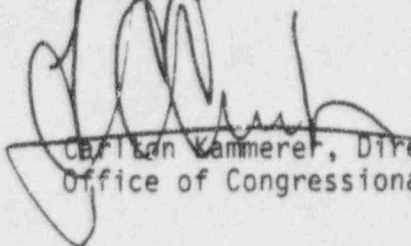
The Honorable Alan Simpson, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Nuclear Regulation  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Draft Environmental Statement on the environmental considerations associated with the application of Houston Lighting and Power Company for a license to operate the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today.

Sincerely,



Carl E. Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure: As stated

cc: Sen. Gary Hart

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

Rep. M. Udall / cc: Rep. M. Lujan  
Rep. E. Markey / cc: Rep. C. Moorhead  
Rep. M. Synar / cc: Rep. W. Clinger

South Texas - Houston Lighting & Pwr.

Sen. Phil Gramm  
Sen. Lloyd Bentsen  
Rep. David Sweeney

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# UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20555

No. 86-35  
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Monday, March 24, 1986)

## NRC STAFF ISSUES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ON SOUTH TEXAS NUCLEAR PROJECT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Draft Environmental Statement on the environmental considerations associated with the application of Houston Lighting and Power Company and three other owners for a license to operate the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, in Matagorda County, Texas. The other owners are City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Central Power and Light Company and the City of Austin, Texas.

The construction permits for the plant, which is being built 12 miles south-southwest of Bay City on the west side of the Colorado River, were issued in December 1975. Each unit would use a pressurized water reactor and have an initial net electrical output of about 1,250 megawatts each.

Although a full environmental assessment was made before the construction permit was issued, NRC regulations require a second assessment at the operating license stage of the licensing process to consider any information which is new or different from that considered at the construction permit stage as well as the license conditions and environmental protection plan under which the reactor should be operated.

The NRC staff is seeking comment on the Draft Environmental Statement from Federal, state and local agencies as well as interested members of the public. After consideration of the comments, a Final Environmental Statement will be issued which will contain a staff conclusion as to whether, and under what conditions from the standpoint of environmental effects, the operating license should be issued.

Written comments on the draft statement are due by May 12, 1986, and should be sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of PWR Licensing-A.

Copies of the statement, designated NUREG-1171, will be available for public inspection at the NRC's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and the Wharton County Junior College, J. M. Hodges Learning Center, 911 Boling Highway, Wharton, Texas. Single copies of the draft may be obtained by writing to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Publication Services Section, Division of Technical Information and Document Control.