

50-498/499



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

September 26, 1995

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

SUBJECT: LESSONS LEARNED FROM NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OPERATIONAL
SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATIONS

Dear Mr. Cottle:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) program has noted a variety of weaknesses and strengths associated with licensees' contingency response capabilities in relation to their ability to protect their plant(s) against a design-basis threat for sabotage [10 CFR 73.1(a)]. In addition, the NRC investigation of the unauthorized forced entry to the protected area at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station on February 7, 1993, prompted an evaluation of the need for guidance in response to unauthorized forced entry into a licensee's protected area. This letter is to inform you that information is being provided to your plant security manager(s) that could assist in your efforts to protect your plant(s) against a design-basis threat for sabotage. This information is (1) applicable sections of NUREG/CR-5172, "Tactical Training Reference Manual", dated April 1989, which could be used in plant tactical security training programs, and (2) lessons learned in plant contingency responses identified through OSREs. Because this information contains Safeguards Information, it is being withheld from public disclosure and will be forwarded with this letter only to your plant security manager(s).

Plant security managers have previously been forwarded a copy of NUREG/CR-5172. This document is oriented primarily toward fuel cycle facilities and incorporates guidance from a similar U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) program; however, it contains useful information for nuclear power plants. This manual addresses skills that armed response personnel could employ to ensure personal safety and effective response to adversary actions and provides guidance in the general factors that could be considered. The manual is, however, for reference purposes only and its contents should not be construed as acceptance criteria or as regulatory requirements.

The OSRE lessons learned provide the weaknesses and strengths identified during OSREs pertaining to licensees' capability to cope with an adversary with the characteristics specified in NRC's design-basis threat. It is

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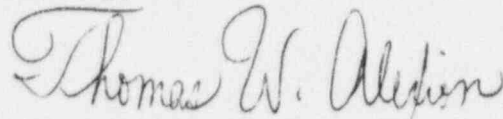
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September 26, 1995

suggested that the information be reviewed for applicability to your plant(s) and actions be considered, as appropriate. However, the solutions and approaches contained in these OSRE lessons learned do not constitute NRC requirements, and it should not be inferred that these are the only acceptable solutions for a plant.

No specific action or written response to this letter is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. Alexion".

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

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

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

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

cc: See next page

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Mr. William T. Cottle
Houston Lighting & Power Company

South Texas, Units 1 & 2

cc:

Mr. David P. Loveless
Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 910
Bay City, TX 77414

Jack R. Newman, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Mr. J. C. Lanier/M. B. Lee
City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78704

Licensing Representative
Houston Lighting and Power Company
Suite 610
Three Metro Center
Bethesda, MD 20814

Mr. K. J. Fiedler
Mr. M. T. Hardt
Central Public Service Board
P. O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296

Rufus S. Scott
Associate General Counsel
Houston Lighting and Power Company
P. O. Box 61867
Houston, TX 77208

Mr. C. A. Johnson
Central Power and Light Company
P. O. Box 289
Mail Code: N5012
Wadsworth, TX 74483

Joseph R. Egan, Esq.
Egan & Associates, P.C.
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

INPO
Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339-3064

Office of the Governor
ATTN: Andy Barrett, Director
Environmental Policy
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Arthur C. Tate, Director
Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie
50 Bellport Lane
Bellport, NY 11713

J. W. Beck
Little Harbor Consultants, Inc.
44 Nichols Road
Cohasset, MA 02025-1166

Judge, Matagorda County
Matagorda County Courthouse
1700 Seventh Street
Bay City, TX 77414

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: Franklin Timmons
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

Mr. Lawrence E. Martin
General Manager, Nuclear Assurance Lic.
Houston Lighting and Power Company
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483