



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76012

October 8, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: File

FROM: Karl V. Seyfrit, Director

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM ANONYMOUS SOURCE ALLEGING IMPROPRIETIES AT STP

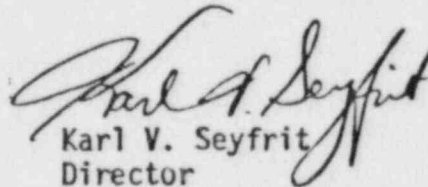
The author of the letter in question identified himself as an employee of Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) and listed five concerns regarding construction of the South Texas Project (STP) by the Brown & Root, Inc. (B&R) construction company, and future personnel scheduled to operate the STP on completion of construction.

The following is a list of the author's concerns and the NRC's position:

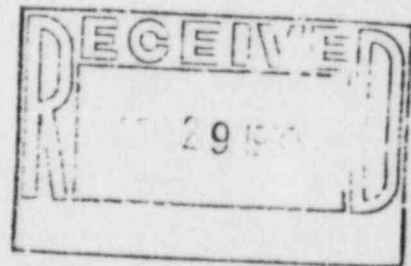
1. That, in the opinion of the author, and opinions from other sources (unknown), Brown & Root has "screwed up something," "put something together wrong," or "used substandard equipment." NRC's position is that these general concerns have been addressed in accordance with the "Show Cause Order" in April 1980 and corrective action has been done and is still being addressed.
2. That an HL&P individual, identified as a training instructor, described one of the scheduled plant operators for STP as "unstable" with "no operating experience" and the operator is "going to blow up STP." NRC's position is that all operators must undergo and pass an operating license examination prior to qualifying as an operator. These examinations have not yet been scheduled, but must be completed prior to licensing the facility for operation.
3. That an HL&P individual identified as "the head security men" stated "I would not want to be anywhere near the plant knowing what I know about it and some of the yoyo's that are going to be running the place." This individual also states that the people that were trained to operate the plant have been sitting idle for the past year and have forgotten what they had learned. NRC's position is that all operators must undergo and pass an operating license examination prior to qualifying as an operator. This examination will be administered just prior to the commencement of operation, and must be renewed at fixed intervals. Additionally, the licensee must conduct a continuing requalification program for all operators.

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4. That it is "generally known around HL&P that STP must be finished" because "HL&P must save face." The author explained that the safety issue is not a concern of HL&P. NRC's position is that during the public meeting in August 1980, the Director of IE stated that STP would not receive an operating license unless the plant met all safety requirements set forth by the Federal Government. Furthermore, the corporate officers stated publicly their personal commitment to safe construction and operation of the plant.
5. That the accident at the Three Mile Island (TMI) was caused by human error and "this alone leads me to believe that an accident at a power plant is only a matter of time, whether it is gas, coal, or nuclear." NRC's position is that many changes to facilities, operator qualifications, and management controls have been instituted since TMI, all of which provide added confidence that the plant can be operated safely.

  
Karl V. Seyfrit  
Director

I have sent a copy of this letter to both the Houston Post and  
Houston Chronicle newspapers.



September 24, 1980

Mr. Eyfryt  
6111 Ryan Plaza # 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76011

I am writing this letter out of a deep concern for the environmental integrity of Texas in connection with the South Texas Nuclear Project. I would like for you to know first of all that until now I have never written a letter to any government agency to complain about things that I have seen go on around me, although there are many things that I am irritated by or that I disagree with. The possibility and very likelihood of an accident that could cause irreparable damage to a large area of land and take many lives in my native state has prompted me to write this letter out of a sense of fear, helplessness and responsibility.

Before I began working for HL&P I thought that nuclear power plants were safe and much needed. I very much believed that people who were afraid of nuclear plants were over reacting or just looking for a cause, any cause. From my own experience working in operations at W.A. Parish generating plant, I have come to learn how badly mistaken I was. The more I learn about plant operations and HL&P's attitude toward the South Texas Project, the more I fear the completion and commercial operation of STP.

I will list below some of the reasons I believe STP will be unsafe. Please keep in mind that I am not some kind of anti-nuclear nut nor am I an expert on this subject.

1) I work at a plant that was constructed by Brown & Root and the workmanship is sloppy. This not just my opinion but the opinion of people who know far more about the plant and operations than I do. I continuously hear Supervisors, Foremen, Mechanics and Head Operators complain how Brown & Root has screwed up something, put something together wrong or use sub-standard equipment. It would flat scare the hell out of me to work in or live near a nuclear power plant built by Brown & Root.

2) I have heard one of the training instructors, Joe McDole, say that one of the men, whom he referred to only as a Latin, who is assigned as a control room operator to STP is unstable and has had no operating experience. I also overheard a supervisor whose name I do not know say, "That God damn Navalas is going to blow up STP", his tone of voice was not in a joking manner. I do not know if this man Navalas is the Latin the instructor was referring to.

3) One of the head safety men, Wayne Eby, commented in a quite serious tone to a safety class, "I would not want to be anywhere near the plant knowing what I know about it and some of the Yo Yos that are going to be running the place". He also said that the people who were trained to operate the plant have been sitting on their butts for over a year now. Indicating to me that they had forgotten most of what they had been taught.

4) It has become generally known around HL&P that the South Texas Project must be finished not because it will be safe to operate, not because we need the extra mega-watts and not because they have already invested so much money into it but because HL&P must save face.

5) I know from papers that were supposed to be only available to other generating plants that the accident at Three Mile Island was caused by operator error. The operator failed to check a piece of equipment that was assigned to him and then when he had to check it the area had already been contaminated. Not checking a piece of equipment when you are supposed to is an occasional fault of all operators including myself. It is called being human. This alone leads me to believe that an accident at a power plant is only a matter of time whether it is a gas plant, coal plant or nuclear plant. However the potential for massive damage is present in only a nuclear plant.

I was born and raised in the State of Texas and I don't like the thought that I might some day have to leave it because it was no longer safe to live in because of an accident that could have been prevented. I have not included my name as I would like to keep my job. I like most other people have bills to pay.

Concerned Citizen