



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

MAY - 1 1996

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: William T. Cottle, Group  
Vice President, Nuclear  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-498/96-02; 50-499/96-02

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. D. P. Loveless, and the inspectors identified in the attached report, of this office on February 11, through March 23, 1996, at the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. 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, inspection of installed equipment, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements.

Based on the results of this inspection, an unresolved item was opened to further evaluate your current practice of addressing quadrant power tilt ratios during plant startup. Of concern is your practice of increasing reactor power above 50 percent with a quadrant power tilt ratio in excess of the Technical Specification limits without first reducing the power range nuclear instrument setpoints. This practice is currently under review by the NRC staff. In addition, the quadrant power tilt anomaly observed during power ascension appears to have become an expectation rather than an exception. However, this is contrary to Updated Final Safety Analysis Report statements that corrective action must be taken when the indicated quadrant power tilt ratio exceeds 1.02.

Also of concern was a reactor coolant system boron dilution event caused by the mispositioning of a throttle valve in the chemical addition system. This issue was dispositioned as a noncited violation in accordance with Section VII.B.1 of the NRC Enforcement Policy. It is our understanding that, during the exit meeting conducted on March 25, 1996, you agreed to complete a review of the controls governing the configuration of all manual throttle valves in the plant. If your understanding of this program enhancement differs from ours, please contact me immediately.

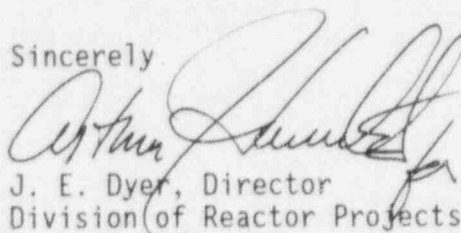
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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PDR ADOCK 05000498  
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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



J. E. Dyer, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Dockets: 50-498  
50-499  
Licenses: NPF-76  
NPF-80

Enclosure:  
NRC Inspection Report  
50-498/96-02; 50-499/96-02

cc w/enclosure:  
Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: Lawrence E. Martin, General Manager  
Nuclear Assurance & Licensing  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

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

City Public Service Board  
ATTN: K. J. Fiedler/M. T. Hardt  
P.O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, Texas 78296

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius  
ATTN: Jack R. Newman, Esq.  
1800 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5869

Central Power & Light Company  
ATTN: G. E. Vaughn/C. A. Johnson  
P.O. Box 289  
Mail Code: N5012  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

INPO  
Records Center  
700 Galleria Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

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

Bureau of Radiation Control  
State of Texas  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756

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

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: Pufus S. Scott, Associate  
General Counsel  
P.O. Box 61867  
Houston, Texas 77208

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

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

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)  
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)  
 E-Mail report to M. Davis (MJD1)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan	Resident Inspector
DRP Director	DRS-PSB
Branch Chief (DRP/A)	MIS System
Project Engineer (DRP/A)	RIV File
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)	R. Bachmann, OGC (MS: 15-B-18)
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)	

DOCUMENT NAME: R:\\_STP\ST602RP.DPL

To receive copy of document, indicate in box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures "N" = No copy

RIV:SRI	AC:DRP/A	D:DRP/A					
DPLoveless <i>[Signature]</i>	JLPellet <i>[Signature]</i>	JEDyer <i>[Signature]</i>					
4/24/96	4/24/96	5/1/96					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)  
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)  
E-Mail report to M. Davis (MJD1)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan

DRP Director

Branch Chief (DRP/A)

Project Engineer (DRP/A)

Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)

Resident Inspector

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