



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: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)
REPORT 50-498/96-99; 50-499/96-99

Enclosed for your review is the SALP report for the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station, for the period of September 25, 1994, through March 23, 1996. A public meeting to discuss this report with you and your staff has been scheduled for 2 p.m. (CDT) on May 16, 1996, at the Nuclear Support Center auditorium at the South Texas Project Electric Generating Station. During this meeting you are encouraged and expected to candidly comment on our report. Although this meeting is a forum between Houston Lighting & Power Company and the NRC, it will be open to observation by members of the public and other interested parties.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the recommendations of the SALP Board and concur with the ratings and views. The maintenance and plant support functional areas were rated as Category 1, reflecting superior safety performance. The operations and engineering areas were rated as Category 2, reflecting overall good safety performance.

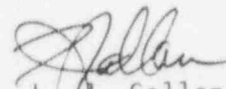
Safety performance in the area of operations was good, with improvements noted in several areas. Operator professionalism remained strong. While continuing actions have resulted in a reduction of significant operator errors, a number of operator performance weaknesses, of which several involved supervisors, occurred during the latter part of the SALP period. In the maintenance area, safety performance improved from a good level of performance to a superior level of performance. The SALP Board concluded that the overall high level of material condition of the plant, facility upgrades, and the resolution of a number of long-standing equipment problems were noteworthy strengths. Engineering safety performance was good, with improvements noted during the last SALP period continuing through this SALP period. The use of probabilistic risk assessment insights in support of plant operations and maintenance was excellent. However, weaknesses were noted with plant modifications and other engineering work activities. Safety performance in the area of plant support was considered to be superior, having improved from its previous good rating. The areas of emergency preparedness and security were significantly improved. Radiological controls program performance remained strong. Overall, safety performance improvements were noted in all four functional areas.

The SALP Board concluded that a key element of your overall improved safety performance was the implementation of self-critical, integrated, and continual line and independent self-assessment activities in all four functional areas. We encourage you to continue your self-assessment and performance improvement efforts. Initiatives to further enhance human and hardware performance must continue to be effective in order to sustain the overall improving safety performance trend that was noted during this SALP period.

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.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP report, I will be pleased to discuss them with you. While no written response is required to the SALP report, if you wish, you may provide written comments within 30 days of the public SALP meeting.

Sincerely,



L. J. Callan
Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure:
NRC SALP Report
50-498/96-99; 50-499/96-99

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

Houston Lighting & Power Company

-4-

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

Texas Public Utility Commission
ATTN: Mr. Chet Oberg
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Suite 400N
Austin, Texas 78757-1024

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

bcc to DMB (IE40)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/A)
 Project Engineer (DRP/A)
 The Chairman (MS: 16-G-15)
 Commissioner Rogers (MS: 16-G-15)
 Commissioner Dicus (MS: 16-G-15)
 G. F. Sanborn, EO
 J. M. Taylor, EDO (MS: 17-G-21)
 Associate Dir. for Projects, NRR
 Associate Dir. for Insp., and Tech. Assmt., NRR
 SALP Program Manager, NRR/ILPB (2 copies)
 W. Beckner, NRR Project Director
 Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)
 R. Bachmann, OGC (MS: 15-B-18)

Resident Inspector
 B. Murray, DRS/PSB
 MIS System
 RIV File
 Records Center, INPO
 S. J. Collins, DRA
 B. Henderson, PAO
 DRP
 SRIs at all RIV sites
 C. A. Hackney
 Carol Gordon
 D. D. Chamberlain, DD:DNMS
 Branch Chief, (DRP/TSS)
 T. Alexion, NRR/PM (MS:13H3)

DOCUMENT NAME: G:_DRPDIR\STP699SF.ATH

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

RIV:DD:DRP E	DD:DRS	NRR:D:PDIV-1	RIV:DRA	RIV:RA
ATHowell	KEBrock	WDBeckner	SJCollins	LJCallan
04/30/96	04/30/96	04/30/96	05/1/96	05/1/96

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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

~~bcc to DMB (IE40)~~

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/A)
 Project Engineer (DRP/A)
 The Chairman (MS: 16-G-15)
 Commissioner Rogers (MS: 16-G-15)
 Commissioner Dicus (MS: 16-G-15)
 G. F. Sanborn, EO
 J. M. Taylor, EDO (MS: 17-G-21)
 Associate Dir. for Projects, NRR
 Associate Dir. for Insp., and Tech. Assmt., NRR
 SALP Program Manager, NRR/ILPB (2 copies)
 W. Beckner, NRR Project Director
 Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)
 R. Bachmann, OGC (MS: 15-B-18)

Resident Inspector
 B. Murray, DRS/PSB
 MIS System
 RIV File
 Records Center, INPO
 S. J. Collins, DRA
 B. Henderson, PAO
 DRP
 SRIs at all RIV sites
 C. A. Hackney
 Carol Gordon
 D. D. Chamberlain, DD:DNMS
 Branch Chief, (DRP/TSS)
 T. Alexion, NRR/PM (MS:13H3)

DOCUMENT NAME: G:_DRPDIR\STP699SF.ATH

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

RIV:DD:DRP	E	DD:DRS	NRR:D:PDIV-1	RIV:DRA	RIV:RA
ATHowell		KEBrock	WDBeckner	SJCollins	LJCallan
04/30/96		04/30/96	04/30/96	05/ /96	05/ /96

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

060050

50-498 Q

IE40

1/1