



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

DEC 16 1992

Docket Nos. 50-498
50-499
License Nos. NPF-76
NPF-80

Houston Lighting & Power Company
ATTN: Donald P. Hall, Group
Vice President, Nuclear
P.O. Box 1700
Houston, Texas 77261

Gentlemen:

The NRC is in the process of conducting operational safeguards response evaluation (OSREs) at nuclear power reactors. I wish to inform you that South Texas Project Units 1 & 2 had been chosen for such a review from January 26 through January 29, 1992.

The primary objective of the OSRE program is to evaluate the readiness of licensees' onsite security forces to respond to an external threat. The focus of these reviews is both on the priorities established between plant operations and security departments for protection of equipment and on the defensive strategies used. These reviews complement NRC's licensing and regional inspection functions.

An OSRE team includes a nuclear systems engineer, reactor safeguards specialists, and at least two U.S. Army Special Forces personnel. Additional assistance is provided by an inspector from the NRC regional office and the NRC resident inspector. Any licensee questions on methodology or other matters are then addressed so that a common understanding can be reached. Also, the suggested schedule for the onsite activities is discussed, and key licensee contact persons are identified. It is through these contact persons that arrangements are made for knowledgeable licensee personnel to escort the team members during the review.

After the entrance briefing, the OSRE team takes a general orientation tour of the protected area perimeter. Following the orientation tour the team will meet with appropriate site security, operations, and engineering staff to select and walk-down potential sets of targets to be used in response drills and table-top exercises. The team will observe a response drill or drills, which should be conducted using normal drill procedures and participants. Team participation will be limited to scenario selection and drill observation. The team will also conduct several table-top response exercises with response team leaders. Additionally, the team will interview training staff and observe weapons familiarity and proficiency. The team nuclear

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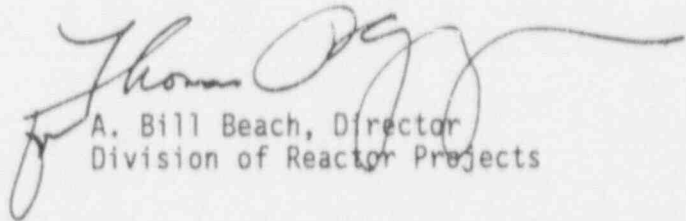
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systems engineer will also meet with plant operators to assure that security systems are not interfering with safe operation of the plant.

Please provide appropriate plant personnel support for the OSRE team during the scheduled evaluation. Specifically, security members will require escorts from the security training department, and the team systems engineer will need an individual familiar with safety equipment location and functional capabilities. The team will make every effort to schedule its activities so as to avoid disruption of normal plant operations. The time that various team members spend onsite may vary, but generally will range from 6 to 8 hours per day. Some of this time is expected to be during evening hours.

If you have any questions regarding the conduct of the operational security readiness evaluation program which you wish to have answered prior to the team's visit, please contact David Orrik, Safeguards Branch at (301) 504-3213, or L. J. Callan of Region IV staff at (817) 860-8106.

Sincerely,



A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

cc:

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DMB (IE-04)

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Project Engineer (DRP/D)

DRS

Section Chief (DRP/TSS)

P. McKee, NRR (MS 9 D24)

J. Tapia, SRI

L. J. Callan, DRSS

Resident Inspector

Section Chief (DRP/D)

MIS System

RIV File

R. Bachmann, OGC, MS: 15-B-13

F. Congel, NRR (MS 10 E2)

E. Butcher, NRR (MS 10 E2)

G. Dick, PM, NRR (MS 13 H15)

D. Orrik, NRR (MS 9 D24)

J. P. Jaudon, DRSS

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