

The Light company

Houston Lighting & Power South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P. O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

December 12, 1996
ST-HL-AE-5531
File No.: D 43

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

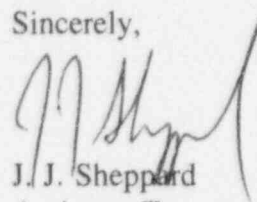
- References:
1. Letter dated November 13, 1996 from William D. Beckner to William T. Cottle
 2. Letter dated January 4, 1996 from William D. Beckner to William T. Cottle

Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) has reviewed Reference 1, and is providing this response.

HL&P intends to comply with the regulations listed in Reference 2 and the other NRC requirements that apply to the protection of information collected in accordance with the fitness-for-duty and access authorization rules. However, HL&P does not agree that those rules require HL&P to disclose the fact that it placed on hold the individual's access authorization. To resolve its disagreement with references 1 and 2, HL&P has directed its legal counsel to submit a request to the NRC General Counsel for an interpretation of the applicable regulations in accordance with 10 CFR 26.4 and 73.3.

Please call me at (512) 972-8757 or S. M. Head at (512) 972-7136 if you have any questions about this response.

Sincerely,



J.J. Sheppard
Assistant To
Executive Vice President and
General Manager, Nuclear

9612300091 961212
PDR ADOCK 05000498
P PDR

JJS/nl

570026

AD011/6