

The Light company

Houston Lighting & Power

South Texas Project Electric Generating Station P. O. Box 289 Wadsworth, Texas 77483

July 8, 1997
ST-HL-AE-5687
File No.: G03.08
10CFR50

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

South Texas Project
Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
Implementation of Severe Accident Management Guidelines

Reference: Correspondence from Lawrence E. Martin, South Texas Project, to NRC Document Control Desk, dated March 31, 1995 (ST-HL-AE-5055)

In response to Generic Letter 88-20, Supplement 2, "Accident Management Strategies for Consideration in the Individual Plant Examination Process," the South Texas Project has developed and approved for use a set of Severe Accident Management Guidelines. The South Texas Project Severe Accident Management program meets the intent of Nuclear Energy Institute Report 91-04, "Severe Accident Issue Closure Guidelines," Revision 1.

Severe Accident Management Guidelines have been developed for the South Texas Project consistent with those prepared by the Westinghouse Owners Group. They have been adapted for use at the South Texas Project with site-specific information from plant design documents, analyses, calculations, and technical manuals. Transition points are specified in the South Texas Project Emergency Operating Procedures for implementation of the Severe Accident Management Guidelines. The Emergency Director will make the decision to transition to the Guidelines when those specific transition points are reached within the Emergency Operating Procedures, or as identified/communicated by the Shift Supervisor. The decision will be based on the status of plant systems and the behavior of core exit thermocouples as instructed in the Emergency Operating Procedures. Other supporting evidence of core damage and operation outside the design bases, such as low vessel water level, high primary loop temperatures, and high radiation levels, should be used to assist in this decision.

A validation exercise has been conducted by the South Texas Project to address implementation of the Severe Accident Management Guidelines. The objective of the validation exercise was to assess whether or not the Severe Accident Management Guidelines could be effectively implemented at the South Texas Project. The exercise

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Project Manager on Behalf of the Participants in the South Texas Project

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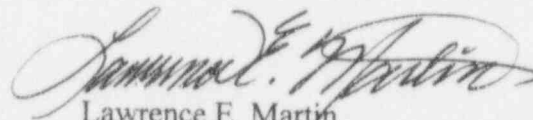
verified that emergency response personnel can transition from Emergency Operating Procedures to the Severe Accident Management Guidelines. The exercise also verified that the training provided to site personnel is adequate to ensure effective use of the Severe Accident Management Guidelines to mitigate the consequences of a severe accident.

The South Texas Project Severe Accident Management Guidelines are available for use by plant emergency response personnel effective June 30, 1997. Training in use of the Severe Accident Management Guidelines has been provided to members of the Emergency Response Organization responsible for their implementation.

Updates to the Severe Accident Management Guidelines will be made on an as-needed basis in response to:

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements issued as regulations, issues and resolutions, audit findings or drill observations;
- Feedback from the South Texas Project Emergency Response Organization and the Operations staff conducting drills and training;
- Additional insights from the South Texas Project Probabilistic Safety Assessment;
- Scientific and technical advances in the understanding of severe accidents; and
- Plant modifications and procedure changes.

If there are any questions, please contact either Mr. H. V. Weldon at (512) 972-7087 or me at (512) 972-8686.


Lawrence E. Martin
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