

AUG 15 1989

In Reply Refer To:  
Dockets: 50-498/89-17  
50-499/89-17  
EA 89-157

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: J. H. Goldberg, Group Vice  
President, Nuclear  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION (NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-498/89-17,  
50-499/89-17)

This refers to the inspection conducted by Messrs. J. E. Bess, R. J. Evans, J. I. Tapia, D. L. Garrison, and other members of this office during the period June 1-30, 1989, of activities authorized by NRC Operating Licenses NPF-76 and NPF-80 for the South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. W. H. Kinsey and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

Areas examined during the inspection included plant status, operational safety verification, monthly maintenance observation, power ascension test, monthly surveillance observations, and startup test witnessing and observation. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspectors. The inspection findings are documented in the enclosed inspection report.

During this inspection, it was found that certain of your activities were in violation of NRC requirements. The violation in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) involves a case of a fire watchman falsifying a log to indicate a tour of an area had been made at a particular time when in fact it had not. The NRC views acts such as the falsification of required logs very seriously. Furthermore, we are concerned because a similar violation was identified previously (EA 88-216) when an NRC inquiry led to the discovery that three contract employees had falsified compensatory fire watch logs on a number of occasions. Given the actual safety significance of the violation in this instance, in that fire detection and automatic fire suppression systems were operable, NRC has classified the violation in the enclosed Notice at Severity Level IV. A stronger enforcement action is not being taken only because HL&P identified this problem, informed NRC and took prompt and appropriate corrective action.

We believe that the corrective actions you described in your response to Enforcement Action 88-216 and the corrective actions described in response to

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
RIV:SRI *[initials]* RI *[initials]* SRI *[initials]* RI *[initials]* DRP/D *[initials]* C:DRP/D *[initials]* EO *[initials]*  
JEBess/lr *[initials]* RJEvans *[initials]* JI Tapia *[initials]* DLGarrison *[initials]* DMHunnicut *[initials]* EJJHoller *[initials]* GFSanborn  
8/14/89 8/14/89 8/14/89 8/14/89 8/14/89 8/14/89 8/14/89  
*[initials]* OETWong *[initials]* DRP *[initials]*  
for JLieberman *[initials]* JLMilhoan  
8/11/89 8/15/89  
by telephone

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the current violation should minimize future possibilities of fire watch logs being falsified. Nevertheless, we expect that you will reinforce to all HL&P and contractor employees the importance of integrity in conducting all activities that are associated with the safety of the plant.

We have also examined actions you have taken with regard to previously identified inspection findings. The status of these items is identified in paragraph 4 of the enclosed report.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.


In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:  
Thomas P. Gwynn

 James L. Milhoan, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A - Notice of Violation
2. Appendix B - Inspection Report  
50-498/89-17  
50-499/89-17

cc w/enclosures:

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: M. A. McBurnett, Manager  
Operations Support Licensing  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: Gerald E. Vaughn, Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: J. T. Westemeier, General Manager  
South Texas Project  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Central Power & Light Company  
ATTN: R. L. Range/R. P. Verret  
P.O. Box 2121  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

City of Austin Electric Utility  
ATTN: R. J. Miner, Chief Operating  
Officer (2 copies)  
721 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas 78704

Newman & Holtzinger, P.C.  
ATTN: J. R. Newman, Esquire  
1615 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: S. L. Rosen  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: R. W. Chewning, Chairman  
Nuclear Safety Review Board  
P.O. Box 289  
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

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

Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: Licensing Representative  
Suite 610  
Three Metro Center  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814



Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Houston Lighting & Power Company  
ATTN: Rufus S. Scott, Associate  
General Counsel  
P.O. Box 1700  
Houston, Texas 77001

INPO  
Records Center  
1100 Circle 75 Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3064

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

Texas Radiation Control Program Director

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

*DRP	*RRI
*Section Chief (DRP/D)	*DRS
*MIS System	*RPB-DRSS
Lisa Shea, RM/ALF	*RIV File
R. Bachmann, OGC	*RSTS Operator
*G. Dick, NRR Project Manager (MS: 13-D-18)	
*Project Engineer (DRP/D)	*R. D. Martin
J. Lieberman, OE	G. F. Sanborn

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