

May 18, 2000

Mr. C. Lance Terry
Senior Vice President &
Principal Nuclear Officer
TXU Electric Company
Attn: Regulatory Affairs Department
P. O. Box 1002
Glen Rose, TX 76043

SUBJECT: TOPICAL REPORT, "CONTROL OF HAZARD BARRIERS," DATED
AUGUST 14, 1998 (TAC NOS. MA3528, MA3529, MA4157, and MA4158)

Dear Mr. Terry:

By letter dated August 14, 1998, you submitted a Topical Report, "Control of Hazard Barriers," on behalf of Southern California Edison Co., Nebraska Public Power District, and Texas Utilities Electric Company (the associated licensees), and requested approval for use by these licensees at their respective nuclear stations (San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station, Cooper Nuclear Station, and Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station). These hazard barriers are typically removable floors, walls, or doors that protect safety-related equipment from hazards such as those associated with high-energy line breaks. The Topical Report addresses the nature of hazard barriers and the implications for operability of safety-related equipment associated with control of these barriers. Submittal of this Topical Report by TXU, on behalf of the associated licensees, represents a forward-looking and thoughtful approach to a difficult issue. After reviewing the Topical Report, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has concluded that guidance being developed on Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, Section 50.59, "Changes, tests and experiments," and guidance on 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for monitoring the effectiveness of maintenance at nuclear power plants," should provide sufficient guidance regarding the NRC's position on the control of hazard barriers. In addition, existing Technical Specifications (TS) should be considered whenever hazard barriers are made, or found to be, inoperable. In this regard, the NRC staff notes that limitations on plant operation may result from hazard barrier inoperability, due to application of associated TS. In these cases, licensees may choose to request changes to these TSs via application of a "risk-informed" methodology. The NRC staff intends to prepare a Regulatory Issue Summary to address these issues associated with control of hazard barriers.

On May 4, 2000, the NRC staff held a telephone conference with TXU Electric (formerly Texas Utilities Electric Company) and Southern California Edison Co. to discuss the control of hazard barriers in light of existing and expected regulation, requirements, and guidance.

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Subsequently, by letter dated May 10, 2000, TXU Electric withdrew the subject Topical Report on behalf of the associated licensees. Accordingly, the staff has suspended its review of the subject Topical Report, and we consider our action on TAC Nos. MA3528, MA3529 , MA4157, and MA4158 to be complete.

Sincerely,

/RA by R Gramm for/

Stuart A. Richards, Director
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-445 and 50-446

cc: See next page

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cc:

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 2159
Glen Rose, TX 76403-2159

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011

Mrs. Juanita Ellis, President
Citizens Association for Sound Energy
1426 South Polk
Dallas, TX 75224

Mr. Roger D. Walker
Regulatory Affairs Manager
TXU Electric
P. O. Box 1002
Glen Rose, TX 76043

George L. Edgar, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Honorable Dale McPherson
County Judge
P. O. Box 851
Glen Rose, TX 76043

Office of the Governor
ATTN: John Howard, Director
Environmental and Natural
Resources Policy
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Arthur C. Tate, Director
Division of Compliance & Inspection
Bureau of Radiation Control
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

Jim Calloway
Public Utility Commission of Texas
Electric Industry Analysis
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326