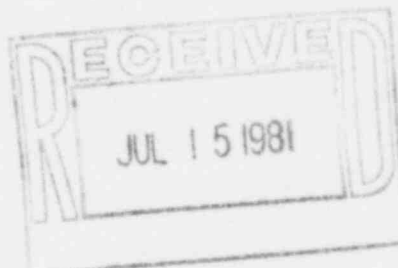


# The Light company

Houston Lighting & Power P.O. Box 1700 Houston, Texas 77001 (713) 228-9211

July 14, 1981  
ST-HL-AE-696  
SFN: C-0570

Mr. G. L. Madsen, Chief  
Reactor Project Branch  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76012



Subject: South Texas Project Units 1 & 2  
Use of Slickline and Slush Coat Grout  
Docket Nos. 50-498, and 50-499

Dear Mr. Madsen:

This letter is intended to clarify and provide additional information relative to the use of slickline and slush coat grout on the South Texas Project (STP) in response to questions raised during the June 29, 1981 meeting with Messrs. R. Hall and J. Tapia and subsequent conversations between these gentlemen, Mr. W. Seidle and our Mr. D. G. Barker.

The application of grout on construction joints facilitates bonding and consolidation of the first layer of concrete placed on a joint, in addition to lubricating the slickline prior to the pumping of concrete. In order to alleviate any concern that the quantity of grout used on a construction joint might be of sufficient magnitude to be considered a structural element, changes will be made to the project specifications/procedures to reduce the quantity of grout placed on construction joints. The quantity of grout to be allowed on the joints will be controlled by the amount ordered. The amount ordered shall be calculated based upon a one inch layer rounded up to the nearest one-half cubic yard. For pump placements, the amount ordered will serve to butter the slickline. This change will negate the specification allowance of one-half cubic yard per 100 feet of slickline for buttering purposes.

Relative to the grout (A-0-3-15) that has been used on the project to butter slicklines and as slush coat, we have a high degree of confidence that the quality of the grout exceeds design requirements based on the batching records and batch plant inspection records for all such grout batched. The grout proportions are based on the design mix and batched such that the water cement ratio, quantity of AEA and water reducing retarding agent, as well as the cement and fine aggregate quantities satisfy design mix requirements. The batching method, verified by inspections, provides assurance that the quality of the grout is more than sufficient as evidenced by numerous cube strength tests taken on this material.

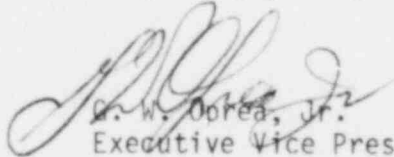
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Houston Lighting & Power Company

July 14, 1981  
ST-HL-AE-696  
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Page 2

Therefore, Houston Lighting & Power remains of the opinion that sufficient controls commensurate with the safety significance of this material, including its use, do exist and have existed in the past. These controls have assured that the material incorporated into safety-related structures has the required quality. Further controls will reduce the quantities of this grout to be used, such that consideration of this grout as a structural element is eliminated.

Very truly yours,

  
G. W. Oore, Jr.  
Executive Vice President

DGB/flj

Houston Lighting & Power Company

cc: J. H. Goldberg  
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July 14, 1981  
ST-HL-AE-696  
SFN: C-0570  
Page 3

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