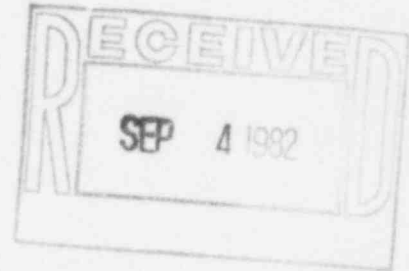


# The Light company

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

September 3, 1982  
ST-HL-AE-881  
File Number: G12.128  
SFN: V-0530

Mr. John T. Collins  
Regional Administrator, Region IV  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Dr., Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76012



Dear Mr. Collins:

South Texas Project  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499  
First Interim Report Concerning  
Limatorque Motor Operators

On August 5, 1982, Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), notified your office of an item regarding sheared pinion keys in Limatorque motor operators. While performing some valve modification work at a plant site, Westinghouse (W) discovered sheared pinion keys in several valves with Limatorque motor operators. An evaluation performed by W has determined that the failed pinion keys were made of a low carbon steel rather than the required hardened alloy. W has determined that a potential safety hazard could exist since the sheared pinion keys could prevent valves from performing their intended safety function.

W notified the NRC on August 4, 1982 that this item was reportable pursuant to 10CFR21. A copy of the W report concerning this item is attached and is intended to supplement our first interim report.

Bechtel has identified a number of valves, already received at the South Texas Project (STP) site, which have Limatorque motor operators of various models. Bechtel is currently performing an evaluation to determine the necessary corrective action. The next report concerning this item will be submitted to your office by January 28, 1983.

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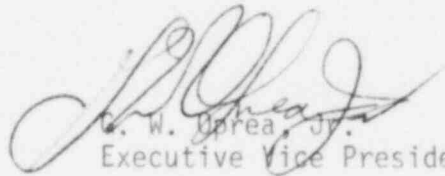
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Houston Lighting & Power Company

September 3, 1982  
ST-HL-AE-881  
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Page 2

If you should have any questions concerning this item, please contact  
Mr. Michael E. Powell at (713)877-3281.

Very truly yours,

  
C. W. Dorea, Jr.  
Executive Vice President

MEP/mg

Attachment

Houston Lighting & Power Company

cc: G. W. Oprea, Jr.

J. H. Goldberg

J. G. Dewease

J. D. Parsons

D. G. Barker

C. G. Robertson

R. A. Frazar

J. W. Williams

R. J. Maroni

J. E. Geiger

H. A. Walker

S. M. Dew

J. T. Collins

(NRC)

D. E. Sells

(NRC)

W. M. Hill, Jr.

(NRC)

M. D. Schwarz

(Baker & Botts)

R. Gordon Gooch

(Baker & Botts)

J. R. Newman

(Lowenstein, Newman, Reis, & Axelrad)

STP RMS

Director, Office of Inspection & Enforcement

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, D. C. 20555

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Central Power & Light Company

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Corpus Christi, Texas 78403

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Lanny Sinkin

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Citizens for Equitable Utilities, Inc.

c/o Ms. Peggy Buchorn

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Brazoria, Texas 77422

Jay Gutierrez, Esquire

Hearing Attorney

Office of the Executive Legal Director

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Washington, D. C. 20555

Revision Date 08-23-82

Westinghouse  
Electric Corporation

Water Reactor  
Divisions

Box 355  
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15230

August 6, 1982

NS-EPR-2637

Mr. Richard C. DeYoung, Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
7920 Norfolk Avenue  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Mr. DeYoung:

On August 4, 1982, Mr. Ed Flack of your staff was notified by Westinghouse via telephone that sheared pinion keys in Limitorque motor operators had been discovered during field modifications/inspections of this equipment. The sheared pinion keys could result in failure of motor operated valves to perform their intended safety function.

The Westinghouse Water Reactor Division Safety Review Committee met on August 3, 1982, to consider this item and concluded that the potential for sheared pinion keys in Limitorque motor operators constituted a Substantial Safety Hazard as defined in 10CFR Part 21 for potentially all Westinghouse plants. The utility/owners of all Westinghouse plants were notified by telephone on August 4, 1982.

In the course of performing field modifications/inspections on Westinghouse supplied valves with Limitorque Model SB-0-25 motor operators, sheared pinion keys were found on six of the operators. These keys are used to secure the pinion gear to the motor shaft which transmits torque to the operator. A metallurgical evaluation of the failed pinion keys performed by Westinghouse indicated that they were of a low carbon steel rather than an available hardened alloy as noted in I&E Information Notice 81-08. Westinghouse was unable to obtain sufficient information as to the adequacy of material properties of pinion keys in other motor operators supplied by Limitorque. The lack of specific information on pinion key material was the basis for concluding that other models of Limitorque motor operators could be affected. Westinghouse is continuing to pursue this item with Limitorque.

~~820820005~~

Mr. Richard C. DeYoung

-2-

August 6, 1982

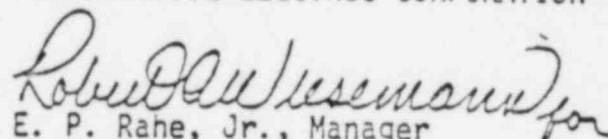
Prior to identification of the six sheared pinion keys at one specific site, Westinghouse had performed modifications/inspections of other Model SB-0-25 motor operators at thirty-two other plants and found only one other sheared pinion key, however, hardness checks were not made. The possibility of sheared pinion keys had previously been identified for Limitorque Model SMB-4 motor operators as identified in I&E Information Notice 81-08.

Westinghouse has recommended that all utilities review I&E Information Notice 81-08 which dealt exclusively with sheared pinion keys in Limitorque Model SMB-4 motor operators and recognize that other Limitorque models may also be affected.

If you have any additional questions regarding this item, please contact Mr. R. A. Wieseemann (412-373-5132) of my staff.

Very truly yours,

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION

  
E. P. Rahe, Jr., Manager  
Nuclear Safety

JJM/anj