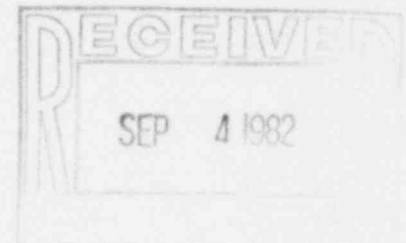


The Light company

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

September 3, 1982
ST-HL-AE-882
File Number: G12.129
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
Undetectable Failure in the SSPS

On August 4, 1982, pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e) Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) notified your office of a potentially reportable deficiency discovered by Westinghouse concerning an undetectable failure which could exist in on-line testing circuits for relays in the Solid State Protection System (SSPS). Westinghouse submitted a letter to NRC-OIE Headquarters (E. P. Rahe to R. DeYoung NS-EPR-2638) dated August 6, 1982 describing this problem.

Periodic testing of the SSPS includes actuation of master relays which actuate safeguards systems. When a preselected master relay is energized, a proving lamp in series with the output (slave) relay coil confirms electrical continuity through the output relay coil. Operation of the output relay is prevented by reducing the output relay coil circuit voltage from 120VAC to 15VDC during test. The master relay is operated by means of the pushbutton test switch which also removes the shunt from the SSPS proving lamp and allows the 15VDC to energize the lamp to confirm the continuity of the output relay coil. Upon completion of the master relay and output relay coil continuity tests, 120VAC circuit voltage is restored. However, if the switch contacts which shunt the proving lamp should fail to reclose as expected, 120VAC would be applied to the lamp when the system was called upon to operate. Depending on the output relay coil impedance and the number of output relays being operated by the master relay contacts, the current through the lamp could cause it to burn open before the output relay(s) energized. In such an instance associated safeguards devices in the affected train would not actuate.

Westinghouse and Bechtel are evaluating potential corrective actions to resolve the problem. HL&P expects to provide further information by January 31, 1983.

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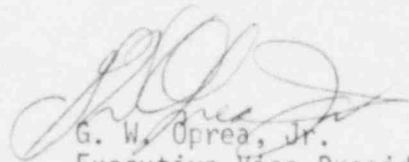
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Houston Lighting & Power Company

September 3, 1982
ST-HL-AE-882
File Number: G12.129
Page 2

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. W. Oprea, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

G. W. Oprea, Jr.
Executive Vice President

McB/mg

Houston Lighting & Power Company

cc: G. W. Oprea, Jr.

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(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

G. W. Muench/R. L. Range

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Lanny Sinkin

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Revision Date 08-23-82