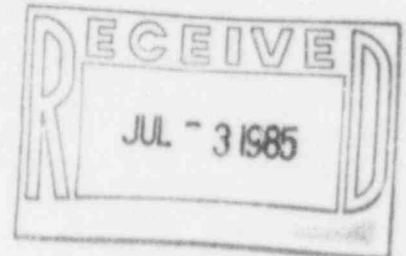


The Light company

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

June 28, 1985
ST-HL-AE-1286
File No.: G12.252

Mr. Robert D. Martin
Regional Administrator, Region IV
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011



South Texas Project
Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
First Interim Report Concerning
Pipe Support Deficiencies

Dear Mr. Martin:

On May 30, 1985, pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P), notified your office of an item concerning potential deficiencies in pipe supports that have been accepted by Ebasco's Quality Control (QC). Attached is the first interim report concerning this item. The next report will be submitted to your office by September 9, 1985.

If you should have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Michael E. Powell at (713) 993-1328.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. H. Goldberg".

J. H. Goldberg
Group Vice President, Nuclear

MEP/as

Attachment: First Interim Report Concerning
Pipe Support Deficiencies

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PDR ADOCK 05000478
S PDR

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cc:

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT
UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
First Interim Report Concerning
Pipe Support Deficiencies

I. Summary

On May 30, 1985, Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) notified NRC Region IV of deficiencies that had been identified on safety-related pipe supports previously accepted by Ebasco Quality Control (QC). The extent of the deficiencies found in the sample inspections represents a potential breakdown in the Quality Assurance Program and is therefore potentially reportable under 10CFR50.55(e).

II. Description Of The Deficiency

HL&P QA Effectiveness Inspections (EIs) have been established to monitor the constructor's QC program and provide timely identification and correction of problems. Under the cognizance of the ongoing EI program, a concentrated inspection was conducted on safety-related pipe supports that had been accepted by Ebasco QC. Nonconforming conditions were identified on 12 of the 16 supports inspected. These findings were documented on site Nonconformance Reports (NCRs) and a Standard Deficiency Report (SDR) and resulted in the initiation of a Deficiency Evaluation Form (DEF). In the same time frame, similar nonconforming conditions were found by HL&P's Pre-CAT Verification Team (PCVT) during their inspection of a sample of 27 safety-related pipe supports. The PCVT consists of a group of outside consultants, under the supervision of HL&P, established to provide an objective appraisal of safety-related construction.

At the time of these inspections, approximately 20% of the large bore Unit 1 safety-related pipe supports had been accepted by Ebasco Quality Control (QC). Although the majority of the nonconforming conditions are minor in nature and easily correctable (eg, broken cotter pins, loose lock nuts, rusty load pins, etc), Ebasco QC, on May 28, 1985, stopped all final inspections pending completion of a joint investigation by HL&P/Bechtel/Ebasco.

III. Corrective Actions

As stated above, Ebasco QC has stopped all final inspections of safety-related pipe supports. Each of the specific findings was documented on an NCR and will be appropriately dispositioned. To determine the root cause and address the generic concerns, a joint HL&P/Bechtel/Ebasco task force was established. An analysis of the findings has resulted in the following set of recommendations by the task force.

- o The pipe support installation specification must be simplified and clarified.
- o The pipe support construction and inspection procedures must be simplified and consolidated. Additional training must be provided to ensure a uniform and consistent understanding of the requirements by construction and QC personnel.
- o Documented construction acceptance must be provided for each pipe support prior to QC inspection to ensure construction accountability for quality.
- o A reinspection program will be instituted for previously inspected and accepted pipe supports.

A detailed corrective action plan and schedule, which includes all of the above task force recommendations will be finalized by July 5, 1985, and will be described in the next report.

IV. Recurrence Control

Recurrence control measures will consist of the actions described in Paragraph III above. The effectiveness of these actions will be monitored through normal STP QA surveillances and the HL&P EI program.

V. Safety Analysis

The safety analysis will be provided in a future report.