



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

JAN 17 1997

William T. Cottle, Group Vice
President, Nuclear
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-498/96-09; 50-499/96-09

Dear Mr. Cottle:

On January 11, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2, facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, your conduct of activities at South Texas Project was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations and maintenance activities, with effective support by the engineering organization and excellent plant support activities. However, we are concerned that Unit 2 operators inadvertently introduced highly borated water into the reactor coolant system, causing an unexpected power transient. It is our understanding that the event also failed to meet your stated management expectations for the evolution.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

Dwight J. Chamberlain
for J. E. Dyer, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-498
50-499
License Nos.: NPF-76
NPF-80

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-498/96-09; 50-499/96-09

cc w/enclosure:

Lawrence E. Martin, General Manager
Nuclear Assurance & Licensing
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

Mr. J. C. Lanier/Mr. M. B. Lee
City of Austin
Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
Austin, Texas 78704

Mr. K. J. Fiedler/Mr. M. T. Hardt
City Public Service Board
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, Texas 78296

Jack R. Newman, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
1800 M. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-5869

Mr. G. E. Vaughn/Mr. C. A. Johnson
Central Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 289
Mail Code: N5C12
Wadsworth, Texas 77483

INPO
Records Center
700 Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

Dr. Bertram Wolfe
15453 Via Vaquero
Monte Sereno, California 95030

Bureau of Radiation Control
State of Texas
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

Mr. Glenn W. Dishong
Texas Public Utility Commission
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Suite 400N
Austin, Texas 78757-1024

Andy Barrett, Director
Environmental Policy
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Judge, Matagorda County
Matagorda County Courthouse
1700 Seventh Street
Bay City, Texas 77414

Licensing Representative
Houston Lighting & Power Company
Suite 610
Three Metro Center
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Rufus S. Scott, Associate
General Counsel
Houston Lighting & Power Company
P.O. Box 61867
Houston, Texas 77208

Joseph R. Egan, Esq.
Egan & Associates, P.C.
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Mr. J. W. Beck
Little Harbor Consultants, Inc
44 Nichols Road
Cohasset, MA 02025-1166

JAN 17 1997

E-Mail report to T. Boyce (THB)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
E-Mail report to Ronald Frahm, Jr. (RKF)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan	Resident Inspector
DRP Director	DRS-PSB
Branch Chief (DRP/A)	MIS System
Project Engineer (DRP/A)	RIV File
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)	R. Bachmann, OGC (MS: 15-B-18)
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)	

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