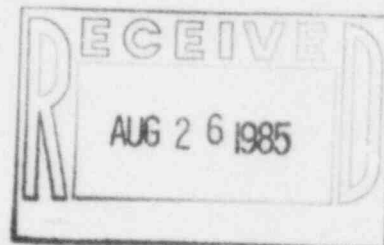


The Light company

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

August 23, 1985
ST-HL-AE-1332
File No.: G12.262

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
Auxiliary & Isolation Relay Panels

Dear Mr. Martin:

On July 26, 1985 Houston Lighting & Power notified your office, pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), of an item concerning auxiliary and isolation relay panels. Enclosed, please find our First Interim Report on this item. Our next report will be submitted to your office on or before November 14, 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 dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Goldberg".

J. H. Goldberg
Group Vice President, Nuclear

JSP/yd

Attachment: First Interim Report Concerning
Auxiliary & Isolation Relay Panels

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PDR ADOCK 05000498
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IE-27/11

cc:

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Docketing & Service Section
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

South Texas Project
Units 1 & 2
First Interim Report Concerning
Auxiliary & Isolation Relay Panels

I. Summary

On July 26, 1985 Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) notified the NRC of an item concerning auxiliary and isolation panels installed at the South Texas Project. These panels were supplied by the Mercury Company. During a QA surveillance it was determined that separation for panel wiring and metallic separation barriers may not conform to the criteria of Regulatory Guide 1.75.

A safety hazard has been assumed to exist and an evaluation is still underway to determine if a significant breakdown has occurred in the QA program.

II. Description of Deficiency

Isolation relay panel ERR 136 (supplied by the Mercury Company) does not meet the requirements of Regulatory Guide 1.75 for a minimum separation distance of 1-inch between wiring and metallic separation barriers. Specifically, two cases were identified on NCR BE-00339. There are a total of twelve (12) auxiliary and isolation relay panels, per unit, supplied by Mercury to Bechtel Specification ES1082. Failure to meet minimum separation criteria may exist for all the above panels. The deficiency was discovered during a normal QA surveillance.

The specification also requires the manufacturer to provide space heaters in the panels. However, the heaters were to be used only during warehouse storage and after installation prior to energizing the panels. The manufacturer protected the non-Class 1E space heater power supply cables in metal conduit which is now touching Class 1E wiring inside the panel. The final electrical design drawings show the temporary construction power to the space heaters as permanent circuits. Thus, the space heaters could have been provided non-Class 1E power during operation.

III. Corrective Action

The panel wiring will be rerouted in the field to meet the specified minimum separation criteria. The temporary space heater power circuits (which were shown as permanent) will be removed from the design drawings and disconnected before fuel load. Additional corrective action may be necessary as a result of walkdowns to be conducted for all safety related panels supplied by Mercury.

IV. Recurrence Control

A walkdown of all safety related panels supplied by Mercury will be conducted to locate and correct any other non-compliances with the wiring separation criteria. An evaluation of the Mercury Company inspection program is being conducted to determine if a breakdown in the QA program exists.

V. Safety Analysis

Had this deficiency remained uncorrected the inadequate separation of safety related and non-safety related wiring could degrade the capability to safely shut down the plant or mitigate the consequences of an accident.