

50-445



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 22, 1996

Mr. C. Lance Terry
TU Electric
Group Vice President, Nuclear
Attn: Regulatory Affairs Department
P. O. Box 1002
Glen Rose, TX 76043

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SAFETY EVALUATION OPEN ITEMS ON COMANCHE PEAK STEAM
ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 1 REGARDING THERMO-LAG CABLE FUNCTIONALITY
ISSUES (TAC NO. M85536)

Dear Mr. Terry:

By letter dated October 24, 1996, Texas Utilities Electric (TU Electric) submitted responses to the seven open items in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's safety evaluation on cable functionality dated May 22, 1996. The NRC safety evaluation was the culmination of several years of correspondence, meetings, and phone calls to reach technical resolution on cable functionality for Comanche Peak Steam Electric Station (CPSES), Unit 1. In addition to carefully reviewing your submittals and engineering reports, the NRC staff observed the testing performed on the test configurations in question. The NRC staff reviewed your October 24, 1996, letter and notes that it does not address all of the staff's original concerns. Furthermore, the letter provides new information not previously provided during the original submittals or in your responses to staff's requests for additional information. We are concerned that this information has been previously available to you, but was not provided to us, and that the resolution of the CPSES Thermo-lag issues have been too protracted. The NRC has become increasingly concerned that licensees have not expeditiously resolved their Thermo-lag issues.

The NRC staff would like to understand TU Electric's position regarding these open items; specifically, why your responses to date have not addressed all the open items, and why the new information provided in your October 24, 1996, response was not previously presented to the staff. To facilitate communication of these cable functionality issues, a meeting has been scheduled for

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NRC FILE CENTER COPY

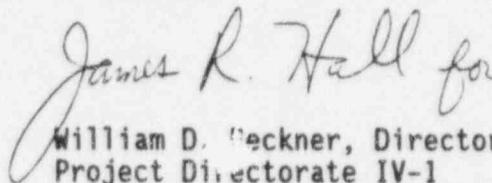
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Mr. C. Lance Terry

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December 5, 1996, in the Region IV office. The goal of this meeting is to reach final technical resolution on cable functionality issues at CPSES, Unit 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Hall for". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

William D. Beckner, Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-445

cc: See next page

Mr. C. Lance Terry

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December 5, 1996, in the Region IV office. The goal of this meeting is to reach final technical resolution on cable functionality issues at CPSES, Unit 1.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
William D. Beckner, Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-445

cc: See next page

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Mr. C. Lance Terry
TU Electric Company

Comanche Peak, Units 1 and 2

cc:

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Honorable Dale McPherson
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Glen Rose, TX 76043

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