

The Light company

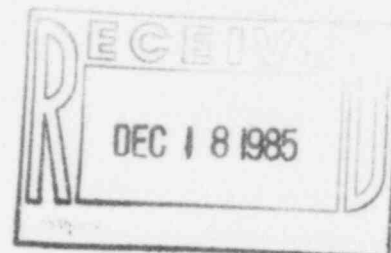
Houston Lighting & Power P.O. Box 1700 Houston, Texas 77001 (713) 228-9211

December 16, 1985

ST-HL-AE-1551

File No.: G12.296

Mr. Robert D. Martin
Regional Administrator, Region IV
U. S. 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
Final Report Concerning Use of Partially
Threaded Bolts on Conduit Supports

Dear Mr. Martin:

On November 14, 1985 pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e), Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) notified your office of a potentially reportable item concerning the use of partially threaded bolts on conduit supports.

Typically, electrical conduits are secured to cold-formed struts by means of straps. The straps encircle the conduit and are secured to the strut by bolts which are engaged into rectangular channel lock nuts inside the U-shaped struts. When the bolts are properly tightened, the conduit is secured against the strut. During an investigation for an unrelated field problem, Bechtel Site Engineering observed that the 1/4 inch diameter bolts, which are used for the installation of conduit straps, were not fully machine threaded throughout the length of the bolt. Project specifications allow the use of these partially threaded bolts.

A concern was identified that upon tightening of the bolt during installation, the unthreaded portion of the bolt shank may bottom out on the locknut thereby reducing the conduit strap load capacity. Based upon this concern, field testing was performed to evaluate the load capacity of the conduit straps installed with bolts threaded their entire length compared with strap capacities installed with partially threaded bolts. The test results demonstrate that the design of the straps utilizing the partially threaded bolts have an acceptable factor of safety for their intended function. Based on the tests and specification requirements, we have determined that the allowed materials and methods are adequate. Therefore, this item is not reportable pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e). No additional corrective action or recurrence control is required.

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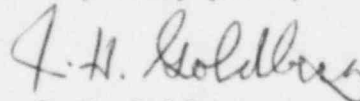
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Houston Lighting & Power Company

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Goldberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

J. H. Goldberg
Group Vice President, Nuclear

RLE/CAA/yd

Houston Lighting & Power Company

cc:

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Revised 12/2/85