

The Light company

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

January 21, 1986

ST-HL-AE-1570
File No.: G9.17, R15.1

Mr. Vincent S. Noonan, Project Director
PWR Project Directorate #5
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

South Texas Project
Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. STN 50-498, STN 50-499
DSER Item
Momentary Fuel Assembly Liftoff

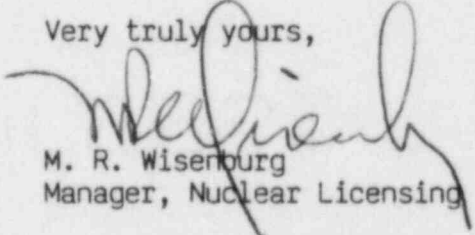
Reference: Letter ST-HL-AE-1515 dated 11/8/85; M. R. Wisenburg to
G. W. Knighton

Dear Mr. Noonan:

This letter is provided to address Draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER) Item #36 (see reference) regarding momentary fuel assembly liftoff. Based on information provided in the attachment, Houston Lighting & Power requests that the NRC consider this item as "closed".

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

Very truly yours,


M. R. Wisenburg
Manager, Nuclear Licensing

JSP/yd

Attachment: Response to DSER Item #36

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Houston Lighting & Power Company

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Revised 12/3/85

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Momentary Fuel Assembly Liftoff

Item #36

Confirmation that in the event of momentary fuel assembly liftoff that damage to adjacent assemblies will not occur and that no ill consequences of momentary liftoff are expected (see Section 4.2.3.1 (9) of this report).

Response

Although the STP fuel assemblies operate firmly seated on the reactor lower core plate, a turbine overspeed transient following loss of load may cause momentary fuel assembly liftoff. Such liftoff is expected to be infrequent, but all fuel assembly and core component hold down springs will accommodate the added deflection and no damage or ill consequences to the STP fuel assemblies or adjacent fuel assemblies is expected to occur.