



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

April 28, 1997

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-498/97 02; 50-499/97-02 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Cottle:

On April 5, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your South Texas Project, Units 1 and 2 facilities. 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 the South Texas Project was generally characterized by safety conscious operations, strong maintenance and engineering, and effective plant support. One violation of NRC requirements is identified in the enclosed report. The violation is related to material left in the Unit 2 containment building during plant operations which had the potential to adversely impact the operability of the emergency sumps. This violation should have been prevented by the corrective actions for a previous violation.

The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In addition, your response should include a discussion of why corrective actions taken following the February 24, 1997, event were ineffective in ensuring that the material identified on March 27 was removed from containment building. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

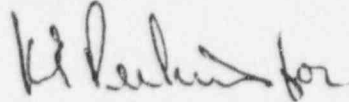
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the Public Document Room without redaction.

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PDR ADOCK 05000498
G PDR



Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-498/97-02; 50-499/97-02

cc w/enclosures:

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

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Electric Utility Department
721 Barton Springs Road
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Mr. K. J. Fiedler/Mr. M. T. Hardt
City Public Service Board
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, Texas 78296

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Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
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Mr. G. E. Vaughn/Mr. C. A. Johnson
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Records Center
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Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5957

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Monte Sereno, California 95030

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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
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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

Houston Lighting & Power Company

-4-

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E-Mail report to T. Boyce (THB)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator
DRP Director
Branch Chief (DRP/A)
Project Engineer (DRP/A)
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

Resident Inspector
DRS-PSB
MIS System
RIV File
R. Bachmann, OGC (MS: 15-B-18)

DOCUMENT NAME: R:_STP\ST702RP.DPL

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4/ /97	4/ /97	4/28/97					

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IE01

Houston Lighting & Power Company

-5-

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