

May 12, 1997

Mr. William T. Cottle
Executive Vice-President &
General Manager, Nuclear
Houston Lighting & Power Company
South Texas Project Electric
Generating Station
P. O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77483

SUBJECT: FIRST TEN-YEAR INTERVAL INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN - REQUEST
TO USE AMSE SECTION XI CODE CASE N-546, SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT, UNITS 1
AND 2 (STP) (TAC NOS. M98134 AND M98135)

Dear Mr. Cottle:

By letter dated February 24, 1997, Houston Lighting & Power Company (HL&P) submitted a request for approval to allow use of ASME Section XI Code Case N-546, "Alternative Requirements for Qualification of VT-2 Examination Personnel, Section XI, Division 1." ASME Code Case N-546 allows VT-2 examinations to be performed by plant personnel qualified by means alternate to the requirements of IWA-2300.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has evaluated the information provided and concludes that the alternatives to the Code qualification requirements for examination personnel will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. Accordingly, the alternatives contained in Code Case N-546 are authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the current interval at STP until such time as the Code Case is approved by reference in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147. At that time, if HL&P intends to continue to implement this Code Case, HL&P must follow all provisions in Code Case N-546 with the limitations issued in RG 1.147, if any. Our related Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

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

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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140048

Document Name: STP98134.LTR

OFC	PM/PD4-1	LA/PD4-1	OGC	U/PD4-1
NAME	TAlexion/vw	CHawes	WBeckner	
DATE	4/23/97	4/22/97	5/18/97	5/12/97
COPY	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William D. Seckner".

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

Docket Nos. 50-498 and 50-499

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

Mr. William T. Cottle
Houston Lighting & Power Company

South Texas, Units 1 & 2

cc:

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