

N3415. SOUTH TEXAS: PSA TECHNIQUES USED IN DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES

South Texas Project Generating Station got an early start on its extensive risk management program. PSA techniques were first applied in late 1982 to define design changes that reduced risk while the two-unit Houston Lighting & Power Company plant was still under construction.

“We have a comprehensive risk management program that helps us ensure safety, while also helping us perform reliably and efficiently,” says Rick Grantom, administrator, Risk and Reliability Analysis. “In addition to nuclear safety, this program will ultimately encompass other aspects of risk, including financial and environmental.”

“The expert panel helps make sure PSA is used properly, not in isolation or instead of other types of analysis,” says Steve Rosen, manager, Risk Management/Industry Relations, and chairman of the expert panel. “Probabilistic safety assessment is one part of an advanced, powerful new way of looking at nuclear plant safety and resource allocation. We go into this with the presumption that by using PSA we’ll be better able to focus our resources, and that will enhance nuclear safety while also reducing costs.”

One way South Texas has found the PSA helps enhance safety is through identifying equipment that is not designated as safety related - but which may play an important role in some risk scenarios. Unlike design-basis methods, PSA assumes no real distinction between safety-related and nonsafety-related equipment.

Contact: Rick Grantom, (512) 972-7372; Steve Rosen, (512) 972-7138, steve-rosen@hlp.com