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Docket No. 50-458

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Dear Mr. Cahill:

Subject: Extension of Construction Completion Date - River Bend Station,
Unit 1

In response to your request dated November 5, 1982, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued an Order extending the construction completion date for the River Bend Station, Unit 1. In lieu of the latest completion date of March 31, 1983, as specified in Construction Permit CPPR-145, the latest completion date has been extended to December 31, 1985.

A copy of the Order granting the extension and the staff's evaluation of your request are enclosed for your information. The Order has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Darrell G. Eisenhut

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:

1. Order Extending Construction Completion Date
2. Staff Evaluation

cc: See next page

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Subject to changes indicated in Order changes made

AS for

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DATE	12/20/82	12/20/82	12/21/82	12/23/82	12/23/82	12/23/82	

River Bend

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

EVALUATION OF A REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
PROVISIONAL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NO. CPPR-145
RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1
DOCKET NO. 50-458

Introduction

A construction permit was issued to Gulf States Utilities and Cajun Electric Power Cooperative (applicants) on March 25, 1977 authorizing construction of the River Bend Station, Unit 1 (facility) in the Parish of West Feliciana, Louisiana. Construction permit CPPR-145 specified March 31, 1983 as the latest date for completion of construction of the facility.

The applicants requested that this date be extended to December 31, 1985. The applicants' request for construction permit extension is contained in their letter of November 5, 1982.

Discussion

The applicants' letter of November 5, 1982, stated that the delay in the completion of construction of River Bend Station, Unit 1 is due to a required reduction in capital outlays consistent with the reduction in anticipated revenues. This reduction in capital outlays, due to:

- 1) high interest rates,
 - 2) inadequate rate relief,
 - 3) a delay in the purchase of an ownership share of the unit by Cajun Electric Power Cooperative,
 - 4) continuing delay in ownership by Sam Rayburn G&T,
- resulted in reduced manpower levels in both engineering and construction.

Based on our review of the applicants' request, we find that the above factors were beyond the applicants' control and constitute good cause for the delay in completion of construction. The applicants have maintained a construction effort at the River Bend site and have revised the design of the facility to meet changing regulatory requirements. Based on our evaluation of the causes for the delay, we have determined that the requested extension is for a reasonable period of time.

As a result of our review of the River Bend Final Safety Analysis Report to date and considering the nature of the delays, we have identified no significant hazards consideration in connection with the extension of the construction completion date. In addition, we find that only change proposed by the applicants to the existing construction permit is an extension of the latest completion date. This extension will not allow any work to be performed involving new safety information of a type not considered by a previous Commission safety review of the facility and that is not already allowed by the existing construction permit. Therefore, we find that (1) this action does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) prior public notice of this action is not required, (3) there is a reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by extension of the construction completion date, and (4) good cause exists for issuance of an Order extending the completion date.

Conclusions

Accordingly, issuance of an Order extending the latest completion date for construction of the River Bend Station, Unit 1 is reasonable and should be authorized. The latest completion date for Unit 1 should be extended to December 31, 1985.

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY
CAJUN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-458

ORDER EXTENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE

Gulf States Utilities Company and Cajun Electric Power Cooperative are the holders of Construction Permit No. CPPR-145, issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on March 25, 1977 for construction of the River Bend Station, Unit 1. This facility is presently under construction at a site in Southeastern Louisiana in the Parish of West Feliciana, Louisiana.

On November 5, 1982, the applicants requested an extension of the latest completion date from March 31, 1983 to December 31, 1985 because construction has been delayed as a result of applicants reducing capital outlays consistent with the reduction in anticipated revenues. This reduction in capital outlays, was for good cause beyond the applicants' control; specifically, high interest rates, inadequate rate relief, a delay in the purchase of an ownership share of the unit by Cajun Electric Power Cooperative and the continuing delay in ownership by Sam Rayburn G & T, resulting in reduced manpower levels in both engineering and construction.

Prior public notice of this extension was not required since this action involves no significant hazards consideration; good cause has been shown for the delays; and the requested extension is for a reasonable period, the bases for which are set forth in the staff's evaluation of the request for extension.

The Commission has determined that this action will not result in any significant environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5 (d)(4), an environmental impact statement, or negative declaration and environmental

impact appraisal, need not be prepared in connection with this action.

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OFFICE
SURNAME
DATE

The NRC staff evaluation of the request for extension of the construction permit is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Government Documents Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the latest completion date for Construction Permit No. CPPR-145 is extended from March 31, 1983 to December 31, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Date of Issuance:

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DATE	12/20/82	12/20/82	12/21/82	12/21/82	12/21/82	12/21/82	