Docket No. 50-458

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.
Senior Vice President
River Bend Nuclear Group
Gulf States Utilities Company
Post Office Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Booker

AUG 12 1985

Dear Mr. Cahill:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a Notice of Environmental Assessment and finding of No Significant Impact, which is being forwarded to the Office of Federal Register for publication. This notice relates to your requests for exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 for the River Bend Station Unit 1.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Walter R. Butler, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION	Docket File	NRC PDR	Local PDR	PRC System	NSIC
LB#2 Reading	EHylton	MHaughey	Dewey,OELD	ACRS (16)	JPartlow
BGrimes	EJordan				

LB#2/DL/PM	LB#2/DL/LA	OELD	LB#2/DL/BC	AD/L/DL	MEB
MHaughey:lb	EHylton	LDewey	WButler	TMNovak	RBosnak
08/12/85	08/12/85	08/12/85	08/12/85	08/ /85	08/ /85

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

AUG 12 1985

Docket No. 50-458

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.
Senior Vice President
River Bend Nuclear Group
Gulf States Utilities Company
Post Office Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Booker

Dear Mr. Cahill:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a Notice of Environmental Assessment and finding of No Significant Impact, which is being forwarded to the Office of Federal Register for publication. This notice relates to your requests for exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 for the River Bend Station Unit 1.

Sincerely,

Walter R. Butler

Walter R. Butler, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

cc:
Troy B. Conner, Jr., Esq.
Conner and Wetterhahn
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Mr. William J. Reed, Jr.
Director - Nuclear Licensing
Gulf States Utilities Company
P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Richard M. Troy, Jr., Esq.
Assistant Attorney General in Charge
State of Louisiana Department of Justice
234 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Resident Inspector
P. O. Box 1051
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Gretchen R. Rothschild
Louisianians for Safe Energy, Inc.
1659 Glenmore Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70775

James W. Pierce, Jr., Esq.
P. O. Box 23571
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Executive Director
for Operations
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Ms. Linda B. Watkins/Mr. Steven Irving
Attorney at Law
355 Napoleon Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Mr. David Zaloudek
Nuclear Energy Division
Louisiana Department of
Environmental Quality
P. O. Box 14690
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Mr. J. David McNeill, III
William G. Davis, Esc.
Department of Justice
Attorney General's Office
7434 Perkins Road
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

H. Anne Plettinger
3456 Villa Rose Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-458

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is issuing exemptions from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 to the Gulf States Utilities Company (the applicant) for the River Bend Station, Unit 1 facility located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A. Control Panel 1ENB*PNL04A

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The exemption would allow a delay in the completion of the seismic qualification of control panel 1ENB*PNL04A. This schedular exemption from the requirements of General Design Criteria 2, "Design Bases For Protection Against Natural Phenomena" would require completion of the seismic qualification of the control panel prior to exceeding 5 percent of rated power. The exemption is in accordance with the applicant's request dated August 12, 1985.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The exemption is required to facilitate fuel loading and the continued progress of preoperational and startup testing programs.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The 125v dc control panel 1ENB*PNL04A is located in the Control Building and provides control power to the 4.2 kV IE switchgear 1ENS*SWG1A, the 480v load centers IEJS*LDC1A and IEJS*LDC2A, and the 125v dc switchgear IENB*SWG01A. The 125v dc control panel is required to support equipment necessary for the shutdown of the plant.

The environmental impact with respect to this exemption is related solely to the potential increased probability of a failure of this panel during and following a seismic event. However, the potential increase of the probability of a release of a significant amount of radioactive material resulting from the exemption being granted is small. During low power operation, fission product inventories and decay heat generation rates are much lower than at full power so much more time is available to respond to abnormal events. Moreover, the applicant stated in their letter of August 7, 1985 that the 125v dc control panel, 1ENB*PNL04A, is similar to equipment already seismically qualified for use at River Bend Station. The overall weight of the subject panel is 975 lb versus 875 lb for the qualified panel. The differences between the two panels are so minor that there is sufficient confidence about the seismic capability of the subject panel.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to this exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operations and would result in unwarranted delays in power ascension.

B. Air Operated Valves (1 DFR*AOV144 and 145) for Pool Pumpback System

Identification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would allow a delay in the replacement of the operators of valves 1DFR*AOV144 and 1DFR*AOV145 in the suppression pool pumpback system (SPPS). This schedular exemption from the requirements of General Design Criteria 2, "Design Bases For Protection Against Natural Phenomena" would require replacement

of the operators of these valves with qualified operators prior to exceeding 5 percent of rated power. The exemption is in accordance with the applicant's request dated August 12, 1985.

The Need For the Proposed Action

The exemption is required to facilitate fuel loading and the continued progress of preoperational and startup testing programs.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

1DFR*AOV144 and 1DFR*AOV145 are air-operated valves in a recently installed suppression pool pumpback system (SPPS). Installation of the SPPS (which returns water which may have leaked through an unisolable passive failure from the suppression pool) includes replacement of non-safety related sump pumps and the operators of these valves with safety-related components. The pumps have been replaced and provided with a Class 1E power supply. However, the operators of these valves have not yet been replaced. The operators have been ordered and will be installed prior to operation above 5 percent of full rated power. Following a seismic event and the passive failure which leaks from the suppression pool, these valves can be manually operated to provide the SPPS function within 30 minutes. Following a LOCA and the passive failure which leaks from the suppression pool, the solenoid which controls the air supply to the operator may fail. In the event these valves fail to close (the fail-safe position) the water from the auxiliary building floor drain sump would be pumped to the radwaste system instead of the suppression pool. The only event which would require that this water be pumped to the suppression pool would be an Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) line break in the cresent area. The probability of an ECCS pipe break in this area for the short time prior to exceeding 5 percent of

rated power is very small. Furthermore an accident occurring below 5 percent of rated power which would require the use of the suppression pool would require less suppression pool water than the design basis accident. Therefore the probability in the event of an ECCS pipe break in the cresent area concurrent with an accident requiring suppression pool water is extremely small.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Because the staff has concluded that there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternative to this exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in unwarranted delays in power ascension.

ALTERNATIVE USE OF RESOURCES:

These actions of the granting of the exemptions A and B discussed above do not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the "Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of River Bend Station" dated January 1985.

AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED:

The NRC staff reviewed the applicant's requests that support the above requested exemptions. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the requested exemptions.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the requested actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the requests for the exemptions as listed herein, which are 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.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 12th day of August 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation