

August 29, 1988

Docket No. 50-458

Gulf States Utilities
ATTN: Mr. James C. Deddens
Senior Vice President (RBNG)
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - AMENDMENT NO. 28 TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47 (TAC NO. 68357)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 28 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 for the River Bend Station, Unit 1. The amendment consists of changes to License Condition 2.C(14), Attachment 5, Item 3 in response to your application dated May 25, 1988 as supplemented July 6, 1988.

The amendment delays the implementation of neutron flux monitoring system modifications from prior to startup from the second refueling outage until a refueling outage following the issuance of the NRC staff's safety evaluation of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group topical report, "Position on NRC Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 3, Requirements for Post-Accident Neutron Monitoring System," NEDO-31558, March 1988, but no later than January 1, 1991 unless otherwise notified in writing by the NRC staff.

A copy of our Safety Evaluation is enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

/s/
Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 28 to License No. NPF-47
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:

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Local PDR	Wanda Jones	PD4 Reading	EButcher
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JCalvo	ARM/LFMB	OGC-Rockville	DHagan
EJordan	Plant File	J. Joyce	B. Marcus

*See previous concurrences:

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PNoonan	WPaulson:JC	SNewberry	RBachmann	JCalvo
08/02/88	08/02/88	08/10/88	08/16/88	08/29/88

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*per
062*

Sincerely,

Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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PD4/LA*	PD4/PM*	SICB:BC*	OGC-Rockville	PD4/D
PNoonan	WPaulson:jc	SNewberry	<i>R. Bachmann</i>	JCalvo
08/02/88	08/02/88	08/10/88	08/11/88	08/ /88

~~SICB
JJoyce
08/ /88~~

~~SICB
BMarcus
08/ /88~~

*(note addition)
Further addition concurred
in by R. Bachmann via telecon
8/25/88 wlp.*

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Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
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DOCUMENT NAME: AMENDMENT TAC 68357

PD4/LA PNoonan 08/9/88	PD4/PM WPaulson:jc 08/2/88	SYCB:BC SNewberry 08/16/88	OGC-Rockville E Bachmann 08/10/88	PD4/D JCalvo 08/ /88
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/s/
Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
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08/02/88	08/02/88	08/10/88	08/16/88	08/29/88



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
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A copy of our Safety Evaluation is enclosed. Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter A. Paulson".

Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Mr. James C. Deddens
Gulf States Utilities Company

River Bend Nuclear Plant

cc:

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

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

DOCKET NO. 50-458

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 28
License No. NPF-47

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Gulf States Utilities Company (the licensee) dated May 25, 1988 as supplemented July 6, 1988, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance: (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to License Condition 2.C(14), Attachment 5, Item 3 of Facility Operating License No. NPF-47. Attachment 5 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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P PNU

ATTACHMENT 5
TO-NPF 47
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

GSU shall complete the following requirements of NUREG-0737 Supplement No. 1 on the schedule noted below:

1. Actions and schedules for correcting all human engineering discrepancies (HEDs) identified in the "Detailed Control Room Design Review Summary Report" dated October 31, 1984 and Supplements dated May 14, June 12, 1985, and July 31, 1985, shall be implemented in accordance with the schedule committed to by GSU in the summary report and supplements and accepted by the NRC staff in Section 18.1 of SSER 3.
2. Prior to startup following the first refueling outage, GSU shall implement modifications (installation or upgrade) for those items listed below consistent with the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 2 unless prior approval of an alternate design of these items is granted by the NRC staff. These items as listed in GSU's letter of June 24, 1985 are:
 - a) coolant level in the reactor;
 - b) suppression pool water level;
 - c) drywell atmosphere temperature;
 - d) primary system safety relief valve position;
 - e) standby liquid control system storage tank level;
 - f) emergency ventilation damper position; and
 - g) airborne radiohalogens and particulates.
3. GSU shall implement modifications (installations or upgrade) for neutron flux monitoring consistent with the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 2 or the NRC Staff's Safety Evaluation Report of the BWR Owners Group Licensing Topical Report (NEDO-31558, Position on NRC Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 3, Requirements for Post-Accident Neutron Monitoring System). Modifications, if required, shall be completed before restart from the next refueling outage starting after 10 months from the date of receipt of the NRC Staff Safety Evaluation Report on NEDO-31558, but no later than January 1, 1991 unless otherwise notified in writing by the NRC staff.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Jose A. Calvo

Jose A. Calvo, Director
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Date of Issuance: August 29, 1988



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 28 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-458

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 25, 1988 as supplemented July 6, 1988, Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) (the licensee) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 for the River Bend Station, Unit 1. The proposed amendment would modify License Condition 2.C(14), Attachment 5, Item 3, to delay the implementation of neutron flux monitoring system modifications from prior to startup from the second refueling outage until a refueling outage following the issuance of the NRC staff's safety evaluation of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWRG) topical report, "Position on NRC Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 3, Requirements for Post-Accident Neutron Monitoring System," NEDO-31558, March 1988. License Condition 2.C(14), Attachment 5, Item 3, requires that prior to startup from the second refueling outage, the licensee shall implement modifications (installation or upgrade) for neutron flux monitoring consistent with the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 2 unless prior approval of an alternate design is granted by the NRC staff.

On June 30, 1986, the NRC staff issued a safety evaluation (SE) regarding the River Bend Station conformance to Regulatory Guide 1.97. This safety evaluation concluded that the River Bend Station design was acceptable except for neutron flux instrumentation. The staff found that the existing neutron flux instrumentation was acceptable for interim operation; however, the SE concluded that prior to startup from the first refueling outage, the licensee must install or upgrade the neutron flux instrumentation to conform to Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 2, and 10 CFR 50.49.

By letter dated August 5, 1987, as supplemented August 24, 1987, the licensee requested that the implementation date for the installation or upgrade of the neutron flux instrumentation be changed from prior to the startup following the first refueling outage to prior to startup following the second refueling outage. The licensee stated that they followed the industry development of neutron flux instrumentation that meets Regulatory Guide 1.97 and that the scheduling, procurement and installation of a licensed system meeting the Regulatory Guide would not be possible during the first refueling outage. The NRC approved the requested schedule change in Amendment No. 14 to the license dated October 26, 1987.

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The proposed change requested by the licensee's May 25, 1988 submittal would state that GSU shall implement modifications (installation or upgrade) for neutron flux monitoring consistent with the guidance of Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 2 or the NRC staff's Safety Evaluation Report (SER) of the BWROG topical report NEDO-31558. Modifications, if required, shall be completed before the restart from the next refueling outage starting after 10 months from the date of receipt of the NRC staff SER on NEDO-31558.

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee stated that the BWROG topical report, NEDO-31558, was submitted for NRC review on April 1, 1988. This topical report, which is currently under review by the NRC staff, concludes that the existing BWR neutron monitoring system design is generally adequate for every postulated event and that a fully qualified Class 1E system for post-accident monitoring is not appropriate or justified. The licensee's submittal indicates that based on a plant specific evaluation, the River Bend Station's design meets all criteria provided in the Topical Report and, on this basis, it is their position that the present neutron monitoring system meets the functional safety intent of Regulatory Guide 1.97. GSU requested that the technical arguments presented in the topical report be evaluated by the NRC prior to the implementation of modifications.

GSU has followed industry development of equipment designed to meet Regulatory Guide 1.97 criteria. GSU indicated that several options have been reviewed and that concerns have been identified regarding the ability of the systems to comply with all criteria of Regulatory Guide 1.97 or installation and operational considerations. GSU indicated that they are continuing to pursue resolution to these concerns to establish an acceptable alternate system installation but delivery constraints will require a purchase order to be placed in June to September 1988, depending on the option, to ensure delivery and final design for installation during the second refueling outage. GSU further stated that to procure, design and install a neutron monitoring system prior to receiving the NRC safety evaluation on the BWROG topical report could result in undue hardship and unnecessary costs if implementation proceeds in accordance with the current license condition.

Because there could be undue hardships and unnecessary costs should GSU proceed with the procurement and installation of the neutron monitoring system prior to the issuance of the staff's safety evaluation of the Topical Report, and there is existing neutron flux instrumentation that the staff found acceptable for interim operation, and because there are unrelated systems in place to provide operators with sufficient data to assess reactor conditions (e.g., control rod position monitors, reactor vessel level and pressure monitors) in the unlikely event of an accident condition, the staff finds that the licensee's May 25, 1988 proposed change to License Condition 2.C(14), Attachment 5, Item 3, is acceptable. For clarity, we have added a completion date, which should provide ample time to complete the related review and implementation work.

By letter dated July 6, 1988, GSU committed to submit quarterly reports to the NRC, beginning September 30, 1988, addressing the progress of neutron flux monitoring procurement and evaluation activities at River Bend Station to satisfy the revised license condition.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment involves a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposures. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Section 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The staff has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public. The staff therefore concludes that the proposed changes are acceptable, and they are hereby incorporated into the River Bend Unit 1 license.

Date: August 29, 1988

Principal Contributor: W. Paulson