

February 6, 1989

Docket No. 50-458

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

Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT - RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. 71147)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated November 9, 1988, for an amendment to delete the License Condition 2.C.(4), Attachment 2, Item 1 requirement to install an additional brace on the control rod drive hydraulic control units as used in the qualification testing.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. James C. Deddens
Gulf States Utilities Company

River Bend Nuclear Plant

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-458ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 issued to Gulf States Utilities Company, (the licensee), for operation of the River Bend Station, Unit 1, located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action

The proposed amendment would delete the License Condition 2.C.(4), Attachment 2, Item 1 requirement to install an additional brace on the control rod drive hydraulic control units (HCUs) as used in the qualification testing. The HCUs furnish pressurized water, on signal, to a drive unit that positions its control rod as required.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated November 9, 1988.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to the license is required in order to delete the current requirement to install an additional brace on the HCUs.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed deletion of the license condition. The proposed deletion of the license condition would remove the requirement to install an additional brace on each of the HCUs. The staff's reviewed the seismic and dynamic qualification of the HCUs. Based on the staff's evaluation, it is concluded that the unmodified test HCU was subject to vibration fatigue far in excess of the seismic/dynamic environment postulated to occur at River Bend Station over the 40 year life. The staff concludes that the additional brace is not required and the license condition can be deleted.

Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of any accident, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed change to the license condition involves systems located within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment. The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on December 2, 1988 (53 FR 48743). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission concluded that there is no significant adverse environmental effect that would result from the proposed action, alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce the impact of plant operations on the environment and would result in implementing modifications to the facility.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the River Bend Station, Unit 1, dated January 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request and 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 proposed license amendment.

Based upon this environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated November 9, 1988, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.,

and at the Government Documents Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of February 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Kenneth L. Heitner

Kenneth L. Heitner, Acting Project Director
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation