

March 26, 1991

Docket No. 50-458

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - AMENDMENT NO. 55 TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47 (TAC NO. 79433)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 55 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 for the River Bend Station, Unit 1. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated January 7, 1991, and supplemented by letter dated January 28, 1991. The January 28, 1991, letter only provided a revised mark-up of the TS page and did not change the original submittal.

The amendment removed the 31-day limit on in-line conductivity measurements of the reactor coolant system from TS Surveillance Requirement 4.4.4.c.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Claudia M. Abbate, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

- 1. Amendment No. 55 to NPF-47
- 2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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*On condition
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March 26, 1991

cc w/enclosures:

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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. 55
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 January 7, 1991, and supplemented by letter dated January 28, 1991, 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.

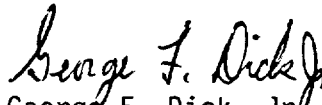
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 55 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. GSU shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

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

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



George F. Dick, Jr., Acting Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment:
Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: March 26, 1991

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 55

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47

DOCKET NO. 50-458

Replace the following page of the Appendix "A" Technical Specifications with the enclosed page. The revised page is identified by Amendment number and contains a vertical line indicating the area of change. The overleaf page is provided to maintain document completeness.

REMOVE

3/4 4-16

INSERT

3/4 4-16

REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM

CHEMISTRY

LIMITING CONDITION FOR OPERATION

ACTION: (Continued)

perform an engineering evaluation to determine the effects of the out-of-limit condition on the structural integrity of the reactor coolant system. Prior to proceeding to OPERATIONAL CONDITION 3, determine that the structural integrity of the reactor coolant system remains acceptable for continued operation.

2. The provisions of Specification 3.0.3 are not applicable.

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.4.4 The reactor coolant shall be determined to be within the specified chemistry limit by:

- a. Measurement prior to pressurizing the reactor during each startup, if not performed within the previous 72 hours.
- b. Analyzing a sample of the reactor coolant for:
 1. Chlorides at least once per:
 - a) 72 hours, and
 - b) 8 hours whenever conductivity is greater than the limit in Table 3.4.4-1.
 2. Conductivity at least once per 72 hours.
 3. pH at least once per:
 - a) 72 hours, and
 - b) 8 hours whenever conductivity is greater than the limit in Table 3.4.4-1.

REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM

SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

- c. Continuously recording the conductivity of the reactor coolant or, when the continuous recording conductivity monitor is inoperable, obtaining an in-line conductivity measurement at least once per:
 - 1. 4 hours in OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS 1, 2 and 3, and
 - 2. 24 hours at all other times.
- d. Performance of a CHANNEL CHECK of the continuous conductivity monitor with an in-line flow cell at least once per:
 - 1. 7 days, and
 - 2. 24 hours whenever conductivity is greater than the limit in Table 3.4.4-1.



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 55 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 January 7, 1991, and supplemented by letter dated January 28, 1991, 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 remove the 31-day limit on in-line conductivity measurements of the reactor coolant system (RCS) from Technical Specification (TS) Surveillance Requirement 4.4.4.c. The conductivity of the RCS is constantly monitored because any changes in conductivity represent an abnormal condition in the plant. A change in conductivity means other RCS parameters, such as chloride, pH, oxygen and other impurities affecting conductivity, have changed. Monitoring, identifying any changes, and establishing chemistry limits for the RCS is important because it allows the materials in the reactor to be in contact with the most favorable environment to ensure stress corrosion cracking and other detrimental effects of poor chemistry do not occur. The surveillance requirements should provide adequate assurance that concentrations in excess of the limits will be detected in sufficient time to take corrective action.

2.0 EVALUATION

The current TS surveillance requires continuous monitoring of the conductivity or, when the continuous recording monitor is inoperable for up to 31 days, obtaining an in-line conductivity measurement at least once per 4 hours or 24 hours depending on what operational mode the plant is in. The 31-day limit has been exceeded by the River Bend Station on three occasions. This has occurred when the RCS and Reactor Water Cleanup (RWC) System were out of service due to outage work being performed and when the plant was in a cold shutdown condition and the monitor was inoperable. GSU submitted informational reports dated January 28, 1988, June 26, 1989, and December 20, 1990, to discuss the circumstances and actions taken concerning these conditions. During periods of inoperability of the reactor coolant continuous conductivity monitor, the total concentration of ionic impurities can be monitored by in-line measurements at least once per 4 hours in Operational Condition 1, 2, and 3 and 24 hours at all other times. To meet the "BWR Normal Water Chemistry Guidelines", EPRI NP-4946-SR, October 1987, which the licensee is committed to, the inoperable continuous conductivity monitor should be brought back in service as soon as possible. These guidelines require a water chemistry program to provide management with a frequent basis for evaluating

the plant's ability to meet the guidelines. Reactor water conductivity is one control parameter in the guidelines that requires continuous measurement for all operational modes. The proposed deletion of the 31-day limit does not change the intent of the TS, it only changes the time restriction in the TS surveillance. The proposed change would make the River Bend Station TS Surveillance Requirement 4.4.4.c similar to the TS surveillance requirement of the three other BWR-6 plants.

The staff reviewed the proposed amendment, BWR Normal Water Chemistry Guidelines, Regulatory Guide 1.56, "Maintenance of Water Purity in Boiling Water Reactors," Updated Safety Analysis Report Section 5.2.3.2 and the applicable Standard Review Plan section and concluded that the removal of the 31-day limit would not affect the ability of the plant staff to identify major changes in the conductivity and thereby identifying abnormal conditions in the plant. Therefore, the proposed removal of the 31-day limit from TS Surveillance Requirement 4.4.4.c is acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Louisiana State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC 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 exposure. 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 (56 FR 6875). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 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.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission 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, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Date: March 26, 1991

Principal Contributor: Claudia Abbate, PDIV-2