

July 9, 1990

Docket No. 50-458

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

Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
CHANGE TO RIVER BEND STATION TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS REGARDING
INCREASING THE OPERATING SUPPRESSION POOL TEMPERATURE LIMIT FROM
95°F TO 100°F (TAC NO. 76826)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant
Impact" for River Bend Station, Unit No. 1. The assessment relates to the
application from Gulf States Utilities dated May 14, 1990, as supplemented
by letter dated June 26, 1990, which proposed changes to the Technical
Specifications to increase the operating suppression pool temperature limit
from 95°F to 100°F.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Claudia M. Abbate, Project Engineer
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. James C. Deddens

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cc w/enclosure:
Mark Wetterhahn, Esq.
Bishop, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds
1401 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

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

Mr. Les England
Director - Nuclear Licensing
Gulf States Utilities Company
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Mr. Philip G. Harris
Cajun Electric Power Coop. Inc.
10719 Airline Highway
P. O. Box 15540
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895

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

President of West Feliciana
Police Jury
P. O. Box 1921
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. J. E. Booker
Manager-Nuclear Industry Relations
P. O. Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Mr. William H. Spell, Administrator
Nuclear Energy Division
Office of Environmental Affairs
P. O. Box 14690
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Mr. J. David McNeill, III
William G. Davis, Esq.
Department of Justice
Attorney General's Office
P. O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

By letter dated May 14, 1990, as supplemented by letter dated June 26, 1990, the licensee proposed to change the Technical Specifications (TS) to increase the operating suppression pool temperature limit from 95°F to 100°F. Seasonal high ambient temperatures and other heat sources which discharge to the suppression pool can cause the pool temperature to approach the current 95°F limit and possibly enter the TS ACTION statement. This can result in extended operation of suppression pool cooling systems and, if the suppression pool temperature cannot be reduced, in a plant shutdown.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed change to the TS is required in order to provide an increase of 5°F in the suppression pool temperature limit to alleviate the potential for power reduction or shutdown as the result of increasing suppression pool temperature.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to TS and concludes that the increase in the allowable suppression pool temperature limit from 95°F to 100°F is acceptable. All containment dynamic loads that are affected by the change were initially designed and analyzed at 100°F. Therefore, the design basis events utilizing an initial suppression pool temperature are bounded by the design limits. Additionally, there is adequate margin to all design limits. The 105°F limit on allowable pool temperature during safety system testing which adds heat to the suppression pool and the suppression pool temperature limit requiring immediate plant shutdown (110°F) and vessel depressurization (120°F) will remain unchanged. Therefore, the proposed changes do not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in any 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 changes involve systems located within the restricted area 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 Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on June 13, 1990 (55 FR 24013). 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 are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for River Bend Station, Unit No. 1, dated January 1985 (NUREG-1073).

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff 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 the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated May 14, 1990, and a supplement dated June 26, 1990, 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 9th day of July 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Christopher I. Grimes
Christopher I. Grimes, Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation