

December 22, 1993

Docket No. 50-458

Gulf States Utilities
ATTN: Mr. John R. McGaha
Vice President (RBNG)
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Dear Mr. McGaha:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. M88205)

Enclosed is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. The assessment relates to your application dated November 18, 1993, requesting an exemption from the two-year test interval for Type C leak rate tests required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Edward T. Baker, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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DATE	12/1/93	12/7/93	12/6/93	12/2/93	1 1

Mr. John R. McGaha

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cc w/enclosure:

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St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would extend the schedule for performing certain Type C local leak rate tests required by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.3, to be completed within a two-year time interval.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The exemption is requested on a one-time only basis to support the current refueling outage schedule. Requiring a plant shutdown solely to perform surveillance tests would cause an unnecessary thermal transient on the plant and could result in unnecessary exposure to personnel.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption. The proposed exemption would allow GSU to conduct the local leak rate tests during the next refueling outage, an extension of 29 days. There will be no changes to the facility or the environment as a result of the exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

It has been determined that there is no impact associated with the proposed exemption; any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or will have a greater environmental impact.

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 1 dated January 1985.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed GSU's request and consulted with the Louisiana State official. The State official had no comments regarding the NRC's proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

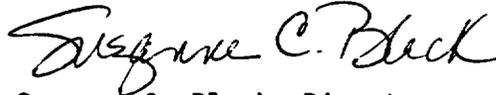
Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission has concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

For further details with respect to this action, see the exemption request dated November 18, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, Lower Level, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the local public document

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

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of December 1993.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Suzanne C. Black, Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation