

July 22, 1996

Mr. John R. MaGaha, Jr.
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE NAME CHANGE FROM GULF STATES
UTILITIES COMPANY TO ENTERGY GULF STATES, INC. FOR RIVER BEND
STATION - (TAC NO. M95478)

Dear Mr. MaGaha:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No
Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated May 20,
1996. The proposed amendment would revise the Facility Operating License and
Appendix C to the license, to reflect the name change from Gulf States
Utilities Company to Entergy Gulf States, Inc.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

David L. Wigginton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Wigginton", is written over the typed name.

David L. Wigginton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. John R. McGaha
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.****DOCKET NO. 50-458****RIVER BEND STATION****ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF****NO 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 Entergy Operations, Inc., (the licensee), for operation of the River Bend Station, located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**Identification of the Proposed Action:**

The proposed action would revise the Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 and Appendix C to the license to reflect the name change from Gulf States Utilities Company to Entergy Gulf States, Inc.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated May 20, 1996.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to correct the name in the license to reflect the change which occurred on April 22, 1996. The name change was made by the licensee to improve customer identification by establishing the name Entergy in the region that it serves.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed changes to the license. We agree with the licensee that the name change will not

impact the existing ownership of the River Bend Station (RBS) or the existing entitlement to power and will not alter the existing antitrust license conditions applicable to Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) or GSU's ability to comply with these conditions or with any of its other obligations or responsibilities. As stated by the licensee, "The corporate existence continues uninterrupted and all legal characteristics remain the same. Thus, there is no change in the state of incorporation, registered agent, registered office, directors, officers, rights or liabilities of the company. Nor is there a change in the function of the Company or the way in which it does business. GSU's financial responsibility for RBS and its sources of funds to support the facility will remain the same." Therefore, the change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluent 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 there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not affect nonradiological plant effluent and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to

the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action.

Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the River Bend Station.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on July 17, 1996, the staff consulted with the Louisiana State official, Dr. Stan Shaw, Assistant Administrator of the Louisiana Radiation Protection Division of the Department of Environmental Quality, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes 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 action. For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated May 20, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Government Documents

Department, Troy H. Middleton Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 22nd day of July 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Wigginton', is written over the typed name.

David L. Wigginton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation