

Lawrence G. Acker, Esq.
 Mary A Murphy, Esq.
 LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae L.L.P.
 Suite 1200
 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20009-5728

November 13, 1997

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP (TAC NO. M99776)

Dear Mr. Acker and Ms. Murphy:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for your information. The notice relates to the application dated October 15, 1997, filed by Ralph R. Mabey, Trustee for Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., for NRC approval, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, of the proposed transfer of Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.'s 30% minority ownership interest in the River Bend Station, Unit No. 1 to Entergy Gulf States, Inc., and issuance of a conforming amendment to the River Bend Station Facility Operating License NPF-47 under 10 CFR 50.90.

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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*See previous concurrence

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| DATE | 11/13/97 | 11/13/97 <i>notes</i> | 10/30/97 | 11/10/97 | 11/13/97 |
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 13, 1997

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wigginton".

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

Entergy Operations, Inc.

River Bend Station

cc:

Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286

Manager - Licensing
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

General Manager - Plant Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Director
Joint Operations Cajun
10719 Airline Highway
P. O. Box 15540
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Director - Nuclear Safety
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Senior Resident Inspector
P. O. Box 1050
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Vice President - Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

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

Attorney General
State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

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

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
P. O. Box 651
Jackson, MS 39205

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

Vice President & Controller
Cajun Electric Power Cooperative
10719 Airline Highway
P.O. Box 15540
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Administrator
Louisiana Radiation Protection Division
P. O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135

Mr. Michael G. Thompson
Senior Vice President
& General Counsel
Entergy Corporation
639 Loyola Avenue, 26 Floor
New Orleans, LA 70113

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

Mr. Tom F. Phillips, Esq.
Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips
451 Florida Street, 8th Floor
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Ms. Margaret H. Williams
Mr. Douglas E. Levanway
Wise Carter Child & Caraway
P. O. Box 651
Jackson, MS 39205

Entergy Operations, Inc.

River Bend Station (Con't)

cc:

Donna Ascenzi (5)
Radiation Program Manager Region 6
Environmental Protection Agency
Air Enforcement Branch 6T E
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ENERGY GULF STATES, INC. AND CAJUN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.
DOCKET NO. 50-458
RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT NO. 1
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an order approving, under 10 CFR 50.80, the transfer of Facility Operating License No. NPF-47, to the extent now held by Cajun Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (Cajun), to Entergy Gulf States, Inc. (EGSI, the licensee) with respect to the River Bend Station, Unit No. 1 (RBS), located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, and issuance of a conforming amendment under 10 CFR 50.90.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would consent, by the issuance of an order, to the transfer of the 30% minority ownership interest in the facilities for RBS from Cajun to EGSI and approve the issuance of a conforming amendment to the license.

The proposed action is in accordance with the application, endorsed and consented to by EGSI, dated October 15, 1997, filed by Ralph R. Mabey, Trustee for Cajun.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is required to obtain the necessary consent to the transfer of the license, to the extent now held by Cajun, and approval of the amendment discussed above. Cajun is a minority owner of RBS with an ownership

share of 30%. In 1994, after a two-year rate investigation, the Louisiana Public Service Commission disallowed from rate recovery Cajun's \$1.8 billion investment in River Bend. This action precipitated Cajun's decision on December 21, 1994, to file a voluntary petition with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Louisiana (the "Bankruptcy Court") for protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Cajun had borrowed the majority of the \$1.8 billion to invest in RBS from the Rural Utilities Service ("RUS") of the United States Department of Agriculture. On August 26, 1996, the Bankruptcy Court approved the terms of a settlement agreement between Cajun, EGSI, and the RUS which allows the Trustee to seek authority to transfer Cajun's 30% undivided ownership interest in RBS. The application dated October 15, 1997, seeks consent to transfer Cajun's 30% interest to EGSI and an amendment to the license to reflect that transfer.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that there will be no changes to the facility or its operation as a result of the proposed action. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action will not affect nonradiological plant effluents and will have 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, Unit No. 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on November 13, 1997, the staff consulted with the Louisiana State official, Mr. William Spell of the Department of Environmental Quality, Radiation Protection Division, 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 proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the application dated October 15, 1997, 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, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of November 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



James W. Clifford, Acting Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation