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

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Docket Nos. 50-458 and 50-459

> Mr. Louis S. Wall, Chief Western Office of Review and Compliance Advisory Council on Historic Preservation P. O. Box 25085 Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. Wall:

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 1979 pointing out salient points of your regulations pertaining to the protection of cultural properties such as Port Hudson Battlefield in Louisiana from impacts associated with construction of a transmission line.

We are initiating steps outlined in 36 CFR 800 which will lead to preparation and filing of a Preliminary Case Report for the Port Hudson Battlefield historic area. Gulf States Utilities, the owner of the River Bend Nuclear Station, has been advised not to proceed with construction of the transmission line within the Battlefield area, pending resolution of this issue.

We have been in touch with Mr. Michael C. Quinn of your office and found his advice very helpful. We are looking forward to continued assistance and guidance from your office towards prompt resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,

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Daniel R. Muller, Acting Director Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation