

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
REGION IV

IE Inspection Report No. 50-458/78-06  
50-459/78-05

Licensee: Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU)  
Locker Drawer 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Facility: River Bend, Units 1 and 2

Inspection at: River Bend Site, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana

Dates of Inspection: December 19-21, 1978

Inspectors: R. J. Everett  
R. J. Everett, Radiation Specialist

1/11/79  
Date

Approved by: G. B. Brown  
G. B. Brown, Chief, Fuel Facility and Material  
Safety Branch

1/11/79  
Date

Inspection Summary

Inspection on December 19-21, 1978 (Report No. 50-458/78-06; 50-459/78-05).

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced inspection of construction phase environmental protection programs, including organization and administration; audits; environmental monitoring; ecological studies; transmission line construction; and a tour of the site and surrounding area. The inspection involved sixteen (16) inspector-hours on site by one NRC inspector.

Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

## Details

### 1. Persons Contacted

#### Gulf States Utilities (GSU)

J. E. Booker, Manager, Licensing and Environmental  
W. J. Reed, Engineer - Licensing  
\*J. Wimberly, Construction Superintendent  
M. E. Walton, Nuclear Staff Analyst  
J. Normand, Civil Supervisor

#### Stone and Webster (S&W)

E. Conrad, Senior QA representative

\*Denotes those Present at the exit interview.

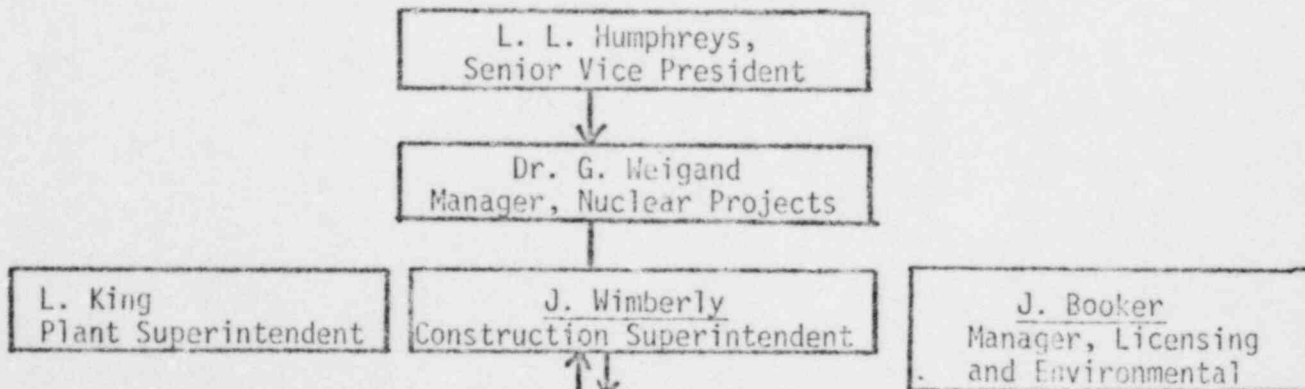
### 2. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

(Open) Unresolved item 77-04/1. Assignment of responsibility for the Aquatic Ecological Monitoring Program and written procedures for implementation of the program. Action not completed on this item.

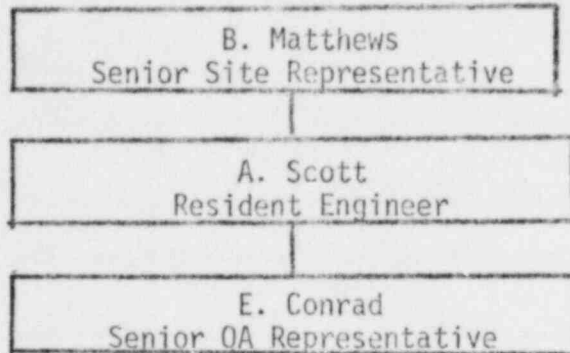
(Open) Noncompliance 78-04/1. Failure to provide environmental assessment at alligator Bayou. Action not completed on this item.

### 3. Organization and Administration

The inspector reviewed the GSU organization and assignment of environmental program responsibilities. The following indicates the present structure and assigned individuals as indicated by a GSU representative.



(Stone and Webster)



4. Internal Audits and Site Inspection Program

The inspector discussed the Audit Program with GSU and S&W representatives and reviewed the following reports of audits conducted during the period since the previous inspection.

SAR No. 7	August 16, 1977
SAR No. 8	November 4, 1977
SAR No. 9	February 1, 1978
SAR No.10	April 26, 1978
SAR No.11	August 7, 1978

These S&W audits were concerned with the site environmental control program as described in RBP-13-2 "Licensing Compliance" and the implementing instruction, CSI 1.3-10.76 "Environmental Monitoring Program." These documents describe the applicants program to control environmental impacts during construction and to assure that construction permit requirements are being met. The inspector also reviewed the monthly meeting minutes of the Environmental Committee and the Environmental Field Monitoring Committee. The inspector noted that the items identified in these audits were acted upon and closed out in a reasonable time frame, with exception those items related to erosion. Site erosion appears to be a chronic problem which is discussed further in paragraph 7.

The inspector noted that no QA audits have been conducted on the contractor (LSU) performing ecological studies at the site. A GSU representative stated that a GSU staff analyst has been assigned to the LSU contract and has a close working relationship with the contractor, insuring that the LSU work meets the commitments set forth in the Environment Report (ER). The inspector stated that documentation of program management meetings with LSU and GSU reviews of quarterly progress reports would satisfy the audit requirement. The inspector had no further question in this area at this time.

5. Transmission Line Environmental Protection

The inspector reviewed with GSU representatives the status of transmission line work and concluded that the changes in line routings had been previously documented in IE inspection report No. 77-07 and no other significant changes had occurred. The line B route has been cleared and towers erected. The inspector inquired as to written procedures and instructions and assignment of responsibility for the transmission line work to insure that environmental commitments in this area are being met. A GSU representative stated that the responsibility for conducting the transmission line work and meeting environmental commitments related to this work has been assigned verbally to the power generation department and all GSU departments have been sent written notification of environmental commitments related to the River Bend site. Further, a terrestrial ecologist, Dr. Robert Noble, has been hired to monitor work along each transmission corridor. The inspector stated that until such time as written instruction and procedures are prepared implementing this program with written assignments of responsibility, the item would remain unresolved. The inspector had no further questions in this area at this time.

6. Ecological Studies

The applicants commitments with respect to aquatic ecological studies at the site are described in section 6 of the ER. The contractor for this work (LSU) has completed a two year study centered on the Mississippi River, Alligator Bayou and Grants Bayou. The inspector reviewed the LSU proposal "Interim Ecological Program Phase II", dated March 2, 1978, which describes the next phase of ecological work. Changes in location, methodology and certain parameters were justified and documented in the report. The work will focus upon the Mississippi River, Needle Lake and Grants Bayou. The inspector concluded that the scope of work was consistent with ER commitment. The inspector reviewed the first and second quarterly reports from the contractor, which identified problems in purchasing necessary equipment and obtaining access to Needle Lake. Apparently river flooding has made access to Needle Lake difficult. A GSU representative stated that GSU would transport the contractor to the lake with an appropriate vehicle until such time the road to the lake can be improved. The inspector had no further questions in this area at this time.

7. Site Tour

The inspector toured the site and surrounding area on December 19, 1978. Due to delays in construction and the nature of the soil at the site, several disturbed areas are eroding significantly. The inspector

noted the applicant's extensive efforts in erosion control at the old 500 area and the new switchyard area. These efforts should be satisfactory pending establishment of good vegetative cover. The spoils area, southeast of the reactor excavation site, and the cooling tower area are two areas remaining that are still eroding significantly. The applicant stated that those areas are included in the overall site plan to reduce or stop erosion. The inspector stated that this item would remain unresolved pending completion of applicant's erosion control program. The inspector expressed concern over the loss of sediment and sand from the areas mentioned above into draws and creeks draining the site. The applicant stated that the amounts involved appear to be insignificant, however, the consulting ecologist Dr. Robert Noble, would be asked to look at these areas for possible environmental impact.

The applicant stated that no dewatering has been done at the site and water table levels, as indicated by piezometer readings, indicate a relatively constant level for the last several years. The inspector had no further questions in this area at this time.

8. Unresolved Items

Unresolved items are matters which require additional information or action to determine if they are acceptable items, items of noncompliance or deviations. Two new unresolved items were identified during the inspection. The items are discussed in paragraph 5 and 7.

9. Exit Interview

The inspector met with a GSU representative at the River Bend Site on December 20, 1978. The inspector summarized the purpose and scope of the inspection, and discussed the findings.