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February 24, 1981
REG-9739
File Code G9.5, G9.25.1.1

Mr. K.V. Seyfrit, Director
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV, Office of Inspection & Enforcement
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

River Bend Station - Unit 1
Docket No. 50-458



G.S.U. notified the Region IV I&E office by telephone on January 26, 1981 of a reportable 10CFR50.55(e) deficiency concerning the overturning of the Primary Shield Wall during a construction movement. An investigation of the incident and the assessment of the damage to the Primary Shield Wall has not been completed. Attached to this letter is a 30 day interim report as required by 10CFR50.55(e)3 which summarizes the information to date. Additional information will be provided within 60 days updating the status of our investigation at that time.

Sincerely,

E. L. Draper

E. L. Draper
Vice President - Nuclear Technology

ELD/RJK/jse

Attachment

cc: Director of Inspection and Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear
Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555

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1. Description of the Deficiency

a. Cause of Accident

This is still under investigation. The investigation includes the following aspects:

1. The condition of the road at the place of accident.
2. The location of the shield wall with respect to the center of the road at the time of the accident.
3. The stability of the transporter/bolster frame/shield wall combination.

The engineering evaluation and analyses are in progress.

b. Damage to the Shield Wall

The base plate of the wall has been damaged in a few places where it tore apart from the clips holding the wall to the bolster frame. Damages, if any, to the shell where the wall hit the railroad track and the edge of the West Creek embankment will be known when the wall is removed from its present position and placed on cribbing. The total damage may not be established before the wall is uprighted. However, preliminary observations do not indicate any damage.

2. Safety Implications

The structural integrity of the shield wall is essential for its intended safety functions, which include:

1. Providing radiation shielding.
2. Supporting high energy pipe whip restraints and associated beams.
3. Supporting other miscellaneous equipment such as pipe supports, flow diverter, and steel floors.

The radiation shielding is essentially provided by the high density concrete which has not been placed; therefore, there are no shielding safety implications. Preliminary observations do not provide enough information to determine whether other safety functions would have been affected or whether damage, were it to have remained uncorrected, could have adversely affected the safety of operations of the nuclear plant.

3. Corrective Action

A nonconformance report has been initiated to address the damage to the shield wall. This will be dispositioned when the extent of the damage is fully assessed. This will include repair of the damages to the shield wall.