



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

January 25, 1990

Docket No. 50-458

Gulf States Utilities Company
ATTN: Mr. James C. Deddens
Senior Vice President (RBNG)
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF'S REVIEW OF GULF STATES UTILITIES (GSU) RESPONSE TO
GENERIC LETTER 88-01, "NRC POSITION ON IGSCC IN BWR AUSTENITIC
STAINLESS STEEL PIPING" - RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1
(TAC NO. 69156)

The NRC staff has completed its review of GSU's July 21, 1988 and May 12, 1989 submittals in response to Generic Letter (GL) 88-01. The staff finds that your response is acceptable with the exception of the two alternate positions that you proposed with regard to leakage detection. A copy of the staff's Safety Evaluation (SE) and a copy of the Technical Evaluation Report prepared by the staff's contractor, Viking Systems International, are enclosed.

We request that within 45 days of the receipt of this letter you submit proposed Technical Specifications (TSs) that meet the staff's position on leakage detection and a change to TS 4.0.5 to include a statement that the Inservice Inspection for piping covered by the scope of Generic Letter 88-01 will be in conformance with the staff position on schedule, methods and personnel, and sample expansion included in the generic letter. Attachment B to your letter of May 12, 1989 committed to provide this change to TS 4.0.5.

After discussions with several BWR operators the staff concluded that monitoring sump level system with fixed-measurement-interval methods every four hours creates an unnecessary administrative hardship to plant operators. Thus, reactor coolant system (RCS) leakage measurements may be taken every eight hours instead of every four hours as specified in GL 88-01. In addition, the enclosed SE precludes the necessity to submit intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC) inspection plans for each future outage. The inspection plans were submitted in GSU's GL 88-01 response and the provisions of GL 88-01 will be incorporated in the Improved Standard TSs for BWRs. However, if flaws are

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found that do not meet Paragraph IWB-3500 criteria of Section XI of the ASME Code for continued operation without evaluation, the evaluations and repairs of the flaws should be submitted to the NRC for review prior to start-up.

If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact the undersigned at (301) 492-3028.

The reporting and/or recordkeeping requirements contained in this letter affect fewer than ten respondents; therefore, OMB clearance is not required under P.L. 96-11.

Sincerely,

WAP

Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV Division of
Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects Office of
Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/enclosures:
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Gulf States Utilities Company

River Bend Nuclear Plant

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