

MAR - 8 1990

In Reply Refer To:
Docket: 50-458/89-44

Gulf States Utilities
ATTN: James C. Deddens
Senior Vice President
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. R. Baer of this office during the period December 18-22, 1989, of activities authorized by NRC Operating License NPF-47 for the River Bend Station, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. T. F. Plunkett, and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection. This also references the information you provided to us in the meeting conducted in Region IV on January 26, 1990, involving the higher radiation levels you encountered throughout the drywell and reactor containment during Refueling Outage 2.

Areas examined during the inspection included portions of your occupational radiation protection program. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector. The inspection findings are documented in the enclosed inspection report.

During the inspection, it was found that certain of your activities were in violation of NRC requirements. However, in accordance with 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, Section V.G.1 of the NRC's Enforcement Policy, no citation is being issued for the self-identified violation described in paragraph 9 of the enclosed inspection report.

We have also examined actions you have taken with regard to previously identified inspection findings. The status of these items is identified in paragraph 2 of the enclosed report.

Your January 26, 1990, presentation at our office regarding radiation levels at River Bend was beneficial and provided us with a better understanding of planned actions in this area. As you know, we have become concerned about the high radiation levels as the result of conditions that surfaced during the April 1989 refueling outage. Based on discussions at that time, it was our understanding that immediate action would be taken to form a Radiation Source Term Task Force, investigate the origin of the high radiation levels, establish a program to reduce existing levels, and establish controls to prevent the

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*RBAer:lm	*BMurray
02/16/90	02/16/90
*Previously concurred.	

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ABBeach
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D:DRP
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introduction of material into the reactor coolant system. Further information provided to the inspector during the December 1989 inspection indicated that work by the Radiation Task Source Term Task Force was progressing at a slow pace and actions to control the source term would not occur until after Refueling Outage 3. However, we were pleased to note that your January 26, 1990, presentation indicated that significantly more activity than that described to the inspector had taken place by the Task Force and that actions would be taken in early 1990 to control the introduction of foreign material into the reactor coolant system.

The performance of your Radiation Protection staff was discussed during the December 1989 inspection and at the January 1990 presentation. Even though the person-rem exposures during 1989 at your facility were about average for a BWR-6 plant, we believe that the radiation protection organization has been challenged by the existing plant conditions and has performed in an excellent manner when faced with some difficult radiological control problems.

Please provide us with a copy of the Radiation Source Term Task Force report once the report is completed.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:
Appendix - NRC Inspection Report
50-458/89-44

cc w/enclosure:
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bcc to DMB (IE01) - FRPS

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