

MAR 22 1990

In Reply To:  
Docket: 50-458/90-01

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

Gentlemen:

This forwards the report of the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) for River Bend Station (RBS). The SALP Board met on February 23, 1990, to evaluate RBS's performance for the period of October 1, 1988, through December 31, 1989. The performance analyses and resulting evaluations are documented in the enclosed SALP Board Report.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the SALP Board Assessment and concur with their ratings.

1. The improved performance in the area of Operations was rated a Category 1 from a previous Category 2. A strong performance by operators and a good overall safety awareness was routinely demonstrated.
2. The rating in the functional area of Emergency Preparedness remained as a Category 1. A timely and thorough management response to weaknesses identified during an emergency drill was evident.
3. The board deliberated at length before assigning a Category 1 to the functional area of Radiological Controls. The board concluded that although the exposure at your facility was 530 person-rem in 1989 which was about average for a boiling water reactor (BWR), the radiation protection group has performed in an excellent manner while handling difficult radiation protection problems. The board was concerned about the existing radiation levels in the drywell, reactor building, and auxiliary building. Management should ensure that the Radiation Source Term Task Force develops a plan to assist the radiation protection group in order to prevent unnecessary exposure at River Bend Station.
4. The functional area of Maintenance/Surveillance was again rated a Category 2. There were several program strengths identified; however, additional management attention is required to implement these programs effectively. Management expectations for the performance of maintenance should be articulated, and appropriate training should be provided in order to realize these expectations.

\*RIV:RI  
WBJones  
3/20/90

\*RIV:SRI  
EJFord  
3/20/90

\*C:DRP/C  
GLConstable  
3/20/90

\*PM/NRR  
WPaulson  
3/19/90

\*NRR  
FJHebdon  
3/19/90

\*DRSS  
ABBeach  
3/20/90

\*DRS  
LJCallan  
3/21/90

*JM*  
DRP  
for SJCollins  
3/22/90

DRA  
JMMontgomery  
3/ /90

RA *(R)*  
RDMartin  
3/22/90

Reconcur  
GLConstable  
3/22/90

\*previously concurred

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5. The improved performance in the functional area of Security was rated a Category 2. Distinct improvement in personnel morale and professionalism was noted. Management initiatives should continue to address weaknesses in maintenance and engineering support of security systems which were still apparent during this SALP period.
6. The performance in the functional area of Engineering/Technical support declined and was rated a Category 2. Although engineering support of plant operations improved during this SALP period, timely evaluation of safety issues was not always performed. Additional management attention in the area of procedural adherence is needed.
7. The performance in the functional area Safety Assessment/Quality Verification was rated a Category 2. Management continued to provide strong oversight of plant operations. Quality assurance engineers provided good safety assessment of plant programs. However, these assessments were not always adequately supported by quality assurance management.

Overall licensee performance reflects strong management initiatives and focus on safe plant operation.

A management meeting will be scheduled with you and your staff to review the results of this SALP report. Within 30 days of this management meeting, you are requested to comment, in writing, to this office for all areas which received a SALP Category 2 rating.

Comments which you submit are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

A copy of your written comments will be included in the final distribution of the SALP report.

~~ORIGINAL~~ SIGNED BY  
ROBERT D. MARTIN

Robert D. Martin  
Regional Administrator

Enclosures:  
SALP Board Report 50-458/90-01

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bcc to DMB (IE40)

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\*DRSS-FRPS

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RRIs at all sites

\*RIV File

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Commissioner Roberts (MS: 18-H-1)

Commissioner Rogers (MS: 16-H-3)

Commissioner Curtiss (MS: 16-G-15)

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