

Docket No. 50-458
License No. NPF-47

DEC 5 1990

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

Gentlemen:

This acknowledges the granting of a temporary waiver of compliance to River Bend Station (RBS), Unit 1, from the provisions of Technical Specification (TS) 3.0.4 on the requirements of TS 3/4.7.3.b, "Reactor Core Isolation Cooling System," to allow you to transfer from Mode 2 to Mode 1 with the reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system inoperable. Your letter (RBG-34115) to this office, dated December 4, 1990, provides the written basis for the temporary waiver of compliance that you verbally requested on December 3, 1990.

The request for a temporary waiver of compliance was verbally granted on December 3, 1990, by NRC Region IV, with the concurrence of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The waiver allowed RBS, for this single occurrence, to enter Mode 1 with the RCIC system inoperable and to continue plant startup so the plant could be placed in a condition that is less sensitive to minor control system perturbations that could result in undesirable transients or scrams. In addition, the power increase would minimize the thermal stress on the feedwater nozzles and piping that results from low power operation with low feedwater heating, and that may result in thermal stratification in the feedwater piping.

Region IV performed an evaluation of your followup written documentation and found it to be in conformance with the information that you provided to the NRC during a telephone conference on December 3, 1990. As committed by your staff, we understand that you will do the following:

1. Aggressively pursue repairs to the RCIC turbine in order to return the RCIC system to an operable status at the earliest possible time.
2. Remain in the 14-day action statement required by the limiting condition for operation (LCO) for the RCIC system, as required by TS 3/4.7.3.b, and perform a plant shutdown in accordance with the TS requirements if the action statement expires before the RCIC system is returned to an operable status.
3. Test the safety relief valves (SRV) for the automatic depressurization system (ADS) at the earliest available opportunity to verify operability of the valves. It is our understanding that the SRVs for the ADS were tested on December 4, 1990, and found to be operational.

C:DRP
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12/05/90

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for per telecon

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Gulf States Utilities

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As indicated by Mr. Don Jernigan of your staff on December 3, 1990, we understand that the RBS Facility Review Committee reviewed and approved the basis of your proposed request for a temporary waiver of compliance prior to requesting this waiver from Region IV.

If your understanding of this matter differs from that expressed above, or if you have other questions regarding this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Thomas P. Gwynn

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

cc:
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bcc to ~~DMB~~ (IE01)

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