



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 53 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-458

INTRODUCTION

By letter dated September 28, 1990, Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) (the licensee) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 for the River Bend Station (RBS), Unit 1. The proposed amendment would modify Technical Specification (TS) 6.5.2.1, "Technical Review and Control," to allow managers/department heads to approve procedures within their own area of responsibility. Currently, only the Plant Manager, Assistant Plant Managers, and the Director-Radiological Programs are allowed to approve procedures.

EVALUATION

Several groups of procedures govern activities at the RBS. The River Bend Nuclear Procedures (RBNP) encompass general practices for all people working at RBS and outline the major responsibilities of and interfaces between the different departments of the River Bend Nuclear Group (RBNG). Implementation of the RBNP is through the Station Operating Manual (SOM) and the Station Support Manual (SSM). The SOM includes top-level procedures for how RBS is operated and maintained. The SOM includes procedures addressing station administration, general, system, emergency and abnormal operation, surveillance testing, corrective and preventive maintenance, radiation protection, and numerous other procedures which assure RBS is operated in a safe, productive, and efficient manner. The SSM contains the procedures used to support operation and maintenance activities which are outside the Plant Manager's direct organization, and Quality Assurance (QA). The SSM includes procedures for engineering, security, training, nuclear licensing, procurement, and other groups internal to the RBNG, but outside the Plant Staff and QA. A majority of the safety-related procedures are contained in the SOM and in accordance with TS 6.5.2.1 must be approved by the Plant Manager, one of the Assistant Plant Managers, or the Director-Radiological Programs. An exception is provided for the Emergency Plan and implementing procedures which are to be approved by the Manager-Administration, Plant Manager and Senior Vice President-RBNG.

A review of RBS Safety Analysis Report (SAR) Section 13.5, "Plant Procedures," NUREG-0989, "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the Operation of River Bend Station," Section 13.5, "Station Administrative Procedures," and Standard Review Plan Section 13.5.1, "Administrative Procedures", identified no

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requirement that only the Plant Manager, Assistant Plant Managers, or the Director-Radiological Programs be allowed to approve procedures related to safety.

Regulatory Guide 1.33, "Quality Assurance Program Requirements (Operation)," references American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard N18.7-1976/ANS 3.2 and provides a guide to the types of procedures to be developed for nuclear facilities. Section 3.2 of the ANSI Standard states that: plant procedures shall be reviewed by an individual knowledgeable in the area affected by the procedure; procedures shall be approved as designated by the owner organization before use; procedures shall be reviewed by knowledgeable personnel other than the originator; approval and changes shall be performed by authorized individuals; and changes to procedures shall be reviewed and approved by the same organization that originally reviewed and approved the procedure unless otherwise designated.

The amendment proposes that safety-related procedures in the SSM may be approved by the manager or department head responsible for the program or activity. Thus, the person most familiar with the program, procedure, or activity would be allowed to review and approve the governing procedure.

The staff has reviewed the proposed amendment and supporting documentation and finds the proposed additional statement to the TS which allows managers/department heads to approve procedures for which they are responsible for is acceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment relates to changes in recordkeeping, reporting, or administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

CONCLUSION

The staff has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public. The staff therefore concludes that the proposed changes are acceptable.

Dated: December 6, 1990

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