



GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

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RBG- 34290
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Gentlemen:

River Bend Station - Unit 1
Docket No. 50-458

Enclosed is Gulf States Utilities Company's Special Report concerning an inoperative loose-part detection system channel. This report is submitted pursuant to River Bend Station Technical Specifications 3.3.7.9 and 6.9.2. This report also serves as a supplement to a previous report, dated 7/12/90, on another failure of the same loose-parts monitoring channel.

Sincerely,

W. L. Odell
Manager-Oversight
River Bend Nuclear Group

Handwritten initials: LAE, PDG, GAB, DCH, DAC, pg

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Enclosure

SPECIAL REPORT

REPORTED CONDITION

On 12/01/90, during normal surveillance testing, the light providing failure indication of the loose parts monitoring (LPM) channel 8 detector module was illuminated, indicating channel low background noise. Since this LPM channel is inoperable, this Special Report is submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.7.9. This report also serves as the supplement to a previous Special Report, dated 7/12/90, on an earlier failure of the same LPM channel.

INVESTIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

Troubleshooting by plant staff personnel has located the failure inside the drywell structure which is inaccessible during power operations. This same channel was reported failed during the last operating cycle (RBG-33189, dated 07/12/90) and was repaired during the recent refueling outage. Previous troubleshooting had determined that the problem was either in the accelerometer or in the cable leading to the accelerometer. The accelerometer was replaced on 11/17/90 and channel 8 was returned to operable status. Channel 8 functioned properly during startup but failed again on 12/1/90. Based on this second failure, it is now believed that a fault within the cable is causing the channel to be inoperative.

GSU will repair or replace the failed portion of the loose parts monitoring channel during the next planned outage, currently scheduled for September, 1991. GSU will issue a supplemental report within 30 days following completion of the outage. This supplemental report will provide the cause and corrective actions taken to restore the channel to operable status.

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The low background problem caused the channel 8 failure indication light to illuminate, indicating a malfunctioning channel. There has been no indication of a loose part in the reactor vessel and thus the health and safety of the public and plant safety are not affected by this condition. In addition, the problem does not affect the capability of the remaining channels to detect loose parts in the reactor vessel since a common annunciator is initiated when any of the LPM channels detects an impact signal.

Note that both channels 7 and 8 are designed to detect loose parts in the upper portion of the reactor vessel. Thus, even with channel 8 inoperable, channel 7 remains available in the event that a loose part appears in the upper portion of the vessel.