



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

January 2, 1991

Docket No. 50-458

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

Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: STAFF REVIEW OF THE FIRST TEN-YEAR INTERVAL INSERVICE
TESTING (YST) PROGRAM FOR PUMPS AND VALVES, RIVER BEND
STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. 64829)

By letter dated April 22, 1988, with additional changes submitted by letter dated June 12, 1990, Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) submitted the River Bend Station (RBS) first ten-year interval IST program for pumps and valves. The program was submitted for NRC review and evaluation of its compliance with the requirements of the 1980 Edition, including Addenda through Winter 1981, of Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and 10 CFR 50.55a and for NRC approval of requests for relief from certain Code requirements.

The NRC staff, with technical assistance from Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, EG&G Idaho Inc. (EG&G), has reviewed and evaluated the IST program and requests for relief submitted for RBS. The review entailed verifying that the program was based on the applicable Code edition and addenda, verifying that the program covered testing of all appropriate pumps and valves, and verifying the acceptability of the requests for relief from the requirements of Subsection IWP, Inservice Testing of Pumps in Nuclear Power Plants and Subsection IWV, Inservice Testing of Valves in Nuclear Power Plants.

The NRC staff has determined with respect to 31 of the relief requests listed in Table 1 of the safety evaluation (SE) that the requirements of the Code are impractical to be performed at RBS (or an acceptable alternative was proposed) and pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), (a)(3)(ii), and (g)(6)(i), granting relief is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. In making this determination, the NRC staff has given due consideration to the burden that could result if those requirements are imposed on your facility. This letter grants the relief. In addition, 16 of the relief requests were granted with certain conditions and 5 of the relief requests were approved on an interim basis. Three relief requests were denied where proposed alternative testing is unacceptable or where an adequate basis for the relief requests has not been provided. These are also described in Table 1.

The NRC staff has determined that the IST program relief requests are acceptable for implementation provided the omissions and inconsistencies identified in Appendix B of the Technical Evaluation Report (TER) (attached to SE) are addressed within the timeframe specified in the SE.

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GSU is required to comply with the IST program defined in the GSU submittal letter where relief has been granted in the enclosed SE. Program changes, such as additional relief requests or changes to relief requests, should be submitted for staff review, but should not be implemented prior to review and approval by the NRC. New or revised relief requests meeting the positions in Enclosure 1 to Generic Letter (GL) 89-04 should be submitted to the NRC staff, but can be implemented provided the guidance in Section D of the GL is followed. Program changes that involve additions or deletions of components from the IST program should be provided to the NRC.

A summary of the requirements and bases for the staff conclusions are contained in the SE with the attached supporting TER prepared by our contractor, EG&G.

Sincerely,

(original signed by)

Eugene V. Imbro, Acting Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation
w/attachments

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. James C. Deddens

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