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Docket Nos. 30-458/459

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.  
Senior Vice President  
River Bend Nuclear Group  
Gulf States Utilities Company  
Post Office Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704  
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Booker

Dear Mr. Cahill:

Subject: Request for Additional Information - Preservice/Inservice (ISI)  
Inspection Program

As a part of the NRC staff's review of your application for an operating license for River Bend Station, the staff has determined the need for additional information in the area of preservice/inservice (ISI) inspection programs. The request for information is included in the enclosure as Question 250.1.

Please inform NRC Project Manager, Edward Weinkam, of your schedule for response and for clarification or further discussion on this topic.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

A. Schwencer, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 2  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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River Bend

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GULF STATES UTILITIES CO.  
RIVER BEND UNITS 1 AND 2  
DOCKET NOS. 50-458/459

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REVIEW OF THE PRESERVICE (PSI)/  
INSERVICE (ISI) INSPECTION PROGRAM

- 250.1 Describe the measures taken to ensure that austenitic stainless steel piping welds, which have been determined to be "service sensitive" to IGSCC as defined in NUREG-0313, are examined using effective techniques and the methods of assuring adequate examination sensitivity over the required examination volume. Discuss the preservice examination criteria used to record, report, and plot geometric or metallurgical ultrasonic indications in "service sensitive" piping systems to assure correlations of baseline data with inservice inspection results.

The ASME Code, Section XI, 1977 Edition with Addenda through Summer 1978 and 1980 Edition specifies the use of Appendix III of Section XI for ferritic piping welds. If this requirement is not applicable (for example, for austenitic piping welds), ultrasonic examination is required by Section XI to be conducted in accordance with the applicable requirements of Article 5 of Section V, as amended by IWA-2232. A technical justification is required if any alternatives are used. If Section XI, Appendix III, Supplement 7, will be used for the examination of austenitic piping welds, discuss the following:

1. All modifications permitted by Supplement 7.
2. Methods of qualifying the procedure for examination through the weld (if complete examination is to be considered for examination conducted with only one side access).

When using either Article 5 of Section V or Appendix III of Section XI for examination of either ferritic or austenitic piping welds, the following should be incorporated:

1. Any crack-like indication, regardless of ultrasonic amplitude, discovered during examination of piping welds or adjacent base metal materials should be recorded and investigated by a Level II or Level III examiner to the extent necessary to determine the shape, identity, and location of the reflector.
2. The Owner should evaluate and take corrective action for the disposition of any indication investigated and found to be other than geometrical or metallurgical in nature.