



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

April 2, 1992

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: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - AUTHORIZATION TO USE ASME SECTION III  
CODE CASE N-483 PURSUANT TO 10 CFR 50.55a (TAC NO. M82754)

Gulf States Utilities (GSU) has been monitoring a circumferential indication in the Inconel weld area of the N4A-2 inlet feedwater nozzle to safe-end weld at the River Bend Station since May 1989. Your letter of January 31, 1992, described GSU's plans to perform an ASME Code repair to this weld during the fourth refueling outage.

We understand that GSU has not been able to locate a material supplier who can supply the desired weld filler material with appropriate ASME certification. However, ASME Code Case N-483, "Alternative Rules to the Provisions of NCA-3800, Requirements for the Purchase of Material, Section III, Division 1," provides alternative rules for an N-Type Certificate holder or owner who wishes to procure materials from an organization who has not been qualified to the requirements of NCA-3800. While the Code Case was approved by ASME on March 30, 1990, it does not appear in the most recent listing of NRC approved Code Cases in Revision 27 of Regulatory Guide 1.85, "Material Code Case Acceptability - ASME Section III Division 1." By letter dated January 31, 1992, GSU requested a one-time use of ASME Code Case N-483 for the procurement of this desired weld material pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3).

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The NRC staff has reviewed your request to use Code Case N-483. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the staff concludes that authorization is acceptable as it provides an acceptable level of quality and safety contingent upon the licensee satisfactorily testing to the requirements of ASME, Section III, 1980 Edition through 1982 Addenda, NB-2000 Articles, and ASME Section II, 1990 Edition through 1982 Addenda, SFA-5.28 Specification.

A copy of our Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Suzanne C. Black, Director  
 Project Directorate IV-2  
 Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
 Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:  
 See next page

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Mr. James C. Deddens

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April 2, 1992

cc w/enclosure:

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