

April 30, 1991

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

Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION

The NRC has recently received information about activities at the River Bend Station (RBS) and its operation. The details of this information are included in the enclosure to this letter.

We request that you review this information and provide us a response within 90 days of receipt of this letter. If this information is substantiated, your response should include any proposed corrective actions you believe are appropriate.

The reporting requirements contained in this letter affect fewer than ten respondents; therefore, OMB clearance is not required under Public Law 96-511.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact Ms. Claudia M. Abbate, (301) 492-1322, of my staff. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
George F. Dick, Acting Director  
Project Directorate IV-2  
Division of Reactor Projects III, IV, V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Request for Information

cc w/o enclosure:  
See next page

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Mr. James C. Deddens

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cc w/o enclosure:  
Winston & Strawn  
ATTN: Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esq.  
1400 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3502

Ms. H. Anne Plettinger  
3456 Villa Rose Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Mr. Les England  
Director - Nuclear Licensing  
Gulf States Utilities Company  
P. O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Mr. Philip G. Harris  
Cajun Electric Power Coop. Inc.  
10719 Airline Highway  
P. O. Box 15540  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895

Senior Resident Inspector  
P. O. Box 1051  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

President of West Feliciana  
Police Jury  
P. O. Box 1921  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. J. E. Booker  
Manager-Nuclear Industry Relations  
Gulf States Utilities  
P. O. Box 2951  
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Mr. Glenn Miller, Administrator  
Radiation Protection Division  
Office of Environmental Affairs  
P. O. Box 14690  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898

Mr. J. David McNeill, III  
William G. Davis, Esq.  
Department of Justice  
Attorney General's Office  
P. O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095

ENCLOSURE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. The Final Environmental Statement (FES), dated 1985, Section 5.5.1.2, states that transmission line rights-of-way will be maintained by periodic removal of tall growing trees and that pesticides or herbicides will not be used. Section I.A.2.b.(2) of the draft report prepared by the Louisiana Public Service Commission Task Force on Utility Line Clearance states that Gulf States Utilities (GSU), as part of its agreement with the NRC, is prohibited from using herbicides on the River Bend Station (RBS) transmission lines. The reference for this statement is the FES. In a letter dated December 4, 1990, GSU, in response to the draft report, states that it is no longer prohibited from using herbicides on RBS lines. The concern is that GSU is using herbicides for transmission line right-of-way clearance. Use of herbicides is not in accordance with the commitment in the FES.
2. Recently, GSU applied for an emergency permit to shore up a transmission tower on a 500 kV line, which was experiencing erosion. (We understand that, over the past 26 years, the river has shifted 200 feet to the west and is now affecting the base of the tower.) Section 8.2.1.3 of the Updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR) states that transmission lines of GSU are inspected aerially on a monthly basis. The concern is that GSU has not been performing the monthly aerial inspections. Your response should include a copy of the results of the monthly aerial inspection activity for the past 24 months.
3. Section 2.4.3.5.2 of the USAR states that during operation annual inspection and maintenance will be performed to remove accumulated vegetation, silt and debris. Section 5.3.3.1 of the FES states that the deposited sediment in the man-made channel of West Creek will have to be periodically removed from the channel bottom. Section 2.4.3.3 of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) states that the applicant will be expected to provide for inspection and maintenance of the man-made portion of West Creek during operation. In Section 2.4.3.3 of Supplemental Safety Evaluation Report (SSER) 2, the NRC staff discusses GSU's commitments to perform an inspection and maintenance program for the fabriform-lined section of the West Creek channel, including an annual inspection of the creek. In addition, if the sediment buildup is greater than one foot deep, the channel will be cleaned. The concern is that the sediment in the channel will impede the flow of water through the channel and that GSU is not maintaining the West Creek channel properly. Your response should include documentation concerning inspection and maintenance efforts performed in accordance with the above references.

4. Emergency Implementing Procedure (EIP) EIP-2-026 was revised to reflect the new evacuation route to the Alternate Evacuation Point as a result of resolution of previously raised issues. The concern is that the EIP and other documents concerning evacuation incorrectly reference Louisiana Highway 965, Powell Station Road and Police Jury Road and this could cause some problems during evacuation. Additionally, there is a concern that erosion due to flooding at the base of the transmission line tower and sections of the Police Jury Road near the alternate assembly point sign may hamper evacuation. Your response should address efforts to resolve these issues.
  
5. Section 5.3.3.1 of the FES states that GSU has performed erosion repair work on the River Access Road to maintain the existing road profile and prevent extension of gullies into Alligator Bayou as a result of flood waters overtopping the road. The FES also states that the Corps of Engineers is expected to install a revetment along the levee to stabilize the Mississippi River bank and minimize the impact of levee overtopping. The concern is that the culverts installed under the River Access Road across Alligator Bayou increase erosion problems. Your response should address any recent erosion repair work performed on the River Access Road and the status of the revetment installation.