



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

January 16, 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 - STATION BLACKOUT SAFETY EVALUATION
(TAC NO. M68593)

The Station Blackout (SBO) Rule requires licensees to submit information as defined in 10 CFR 50.63 and to provide a plan and schedule for conformance to the SBO Rule. Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) provided responses to the SBO Rule regarding the River Bend Station, Unit 1, by letters dated April 17, 1989, March 30, 1990, and October 18, 1991. GSU calculated a minimum acceptable SBO duration of four hours for River Bend Station and indicated that there will be no modifications necessary to attain this coping duration.

GSU's responses were reviewed by the NRC staff and by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) under contract to the NRC. The results of the review are documented in the enclosed Safety Evaluation (SE) (Enclosure 1) and the SAIC Technical Evaluation Report (TER), SAIC-91/1263, "River Bend Station, Unit 1, Station Blackout Evaluation" (Attachment 1 to Enclosure 1).

Based on our review of these submittals, the staff finds that the River Bend Station does not conform with the SBO Rule, the guidance of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.155, Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) 87-00, and NUMARC 87-00, Supplemental Questions/Answers and Major Assumptions dated December 27, 1989 (issued to the industry by NUMARC on January 4, 1990). The areas of nonconformance are identified in the enclosed SE.

In addition, the following areas may require followup inspection by the NRC to verify that the implementation of any modifications and the supporting documentation which the licensee may propose as a result of this evaluation are adequate to meet the SBO Rule. The staff is developing guidance for this followup inspection to verify the following:

- a. Hardware, if required, and procedural modifications;
- b. SBO procedures in accordance with RG 1.155, Position 3.4, and NUMARC 87-00, Section 4;
- c. Operator staffing and training to follow the identified actions in the procedures;

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- d. EDG reliability program meets, as a minimum, the guidelines of RC 1.155;
- e. Equipment and components required to cope with an SBO are incorporated in a QA program that meets the guidance of RG 1.155, Appendix A; and
- f. Actions taken pertaining to the specific recommendations noted in the SE.

The guidance provided on Technical Specifications (TS) for an SBO states that the TS should be consistent with the Interim Commission Policy Statement on Technical Specifications. The staff has taken the position that TS are required for SBO response equipment. However, the question of how specifications for the SBO equipment will be applied is currently being considered generically by the NRC in the context of the Technical Specification Improvement Program and remains an open item at this time. In the interim, the staff expects plant procedures to reflect the appropriate testing and surveillance requirements to ensure the operability of the necessary SBO equipment. If the staff later determines that TS regarding the SBO equipment is warranted, the licensee will be notified of the implementation requirements.

A revised response to the SBO Rule which addresses the areas of non-conformance should be submitted for staff review within 60 days following receipt of this letter. Subject to an acceptable resolution of the identified nonconformances, the issue of conformance to the SBO Rule remains open at the River Bend Station.

We consider the technical review under TAC No. M68593 to be incomplete. The SE contains eight recommendations which include five that require additional information (revised response).

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

Please feel free to contact me at (301) 504-1324, if you desire to discuss this issue with the NRC technical staff and its contractor.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
for George F. Dick
 Douglas V. Pickett, Project Manager
 Project Directorate IV-2
 Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
 Safety Evaluation
 w/attachment

cc w/enclosure:
 See next page

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Mr. James C. Deddens

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cc w/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

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

Jury

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

Dr. Stan Shaw, Program Manager

Emergency Planning and Response

LA Radiation Protection Division

P. O. Box 82135

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2135

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