

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONGULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-458ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 26.29(b) regarding the protection of personal information associated with fitness for duty programs to Gulf States Utilities Company (the licensee) for the River Bend Station, Unit 1 located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 26.29(b) regarding the protection of personal information associated with fitness for duty programs. By letter dated January 28, 1992, the licensee requested an exemption from 10 CFR 26.29(b) to allow the licensee to provide, in a confidential manner, information concerning a former employee's drug test results to the Louisiana Office of Employment Security.

The Need for the Proposed Action

Section 26.29(b) of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations restricts the disclosure of personal information associated with fitness for duty programs. The licensee has requested a one-time exemption in order to provide information to the Louisiana Office of Employment Security. The Louisiana Office of Employment Security has informed the licensee that the personal

Information associated with the fitness for duty program must be provided in order to contest an earlier finding.

Therefore, an exemption is needed to allow the licensee to effectively participate in the appeals process before the Louisiana Office of Employment Security.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption affects only the restrictions associated with the release of personal information related to the licensee's fitness for duty program. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no measurable radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives will have either no environmental impact or will have a greater environmental impact. The principal alternative to the exemption would be to prohibit the release of the personal information to the Louisiana Office of Employment Security. Such an action would not affect the protection of the environment and would result in preventing the licensee's effective participation in the appeals process.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for River Bend Station, Unit 1, dated January 1985.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption. Based upon the environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated January 28, 1992. The letter is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Government Documents Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 19th day of February 1992.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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