AUG 9 1984

Mr. Allan Hirsch, Director Office of Federal Activities U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Room 2119M (A-104) 400 M Street S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Hirsch:

Subject: Issuance of Draft Environmental Statement - River Bend Station

I am pleased to provide the Environmental Protection Agency with copies of the Draft Environmental Statement prepared by the Commission's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation on environmental considerations under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, related to the operation of River Bend Station.

This Draft Environmental Statement was prepared in accordance with the statement of general policy and procedure on implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as set forth in the Commission's regulations, 10 CFR Part 51. A notice of the availability of the Draft Environmental Statement and requests for comments is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for filing and publication (copy enclosed). A request for comments also is being sent to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies.

After receipt of comments from Federal, State and local agencies, we shall prepare a Final Environmental Statement including, where appropriate, a discussion of problems or objections raised and the disposition thereof, and forward copies of the Statement to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely.

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

Enclosures: 1. DES (6) 2. Federal Register Notice

cc: See next page

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## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-458

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

CAJUN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

MOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR

RIVER BEND STATION

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission's regulations in 10 CFR Part 51, notice is hereby given that a Draft Environmental Statement (NUREG-1073) has been prepared by the Commission's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation related to the proposed operation of the River Bend Station located on the Mississippi River in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. The Draft Environmental Statement (DES) addresses the aquatic, terrestrial, radiological, social and economic impacts associated with normal station operation. Station accidents are addressed in Section 5.9 of this statement.

Copies of NUREG-1073 are available for inspection by the public in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Louisiana State University, Government Document Department, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

Interested persons may submit comments on this DES for the Commission's consideration. Federal, State, and specified local agencies are being provided with copies of the DES. Other local agencies may obtain these documents upon request.

Comments by Federal State and local officials, or other members of the

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inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room in Washington, D.C. and the Louisiana State University. Comments are due by October 1, 1984. After consideration of the comments submitted on the DES, the Commission's staff will prepare a Final Environmental Statement, the availability of which will be published in the Federal Register.

Comments on the Draft Environmental Statement from interested members of the public should be addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Licensing.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 7 day of in 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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