

APR 28 1992

Docket No. 50-458
License No. NPF-47

Gulf States Utilities
ATTN: James C. Deddens
Senior Vice President (RBNG)
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-458/92-08 (NOTICE OF VIOLATION)

This refers to the inspection conducted by Messrs. E. J. Ford and D. P. Loveless of this office on March 1 through April 11, 1992. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your River Bend Station facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you and those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, inspections of installed equipment and system lineups, interviews with personnel, and observations of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The violation is of concern because it indicates a lack of control over refueling preparations and that water coverage above activated fuel limits could be violated. Additionally, one unresolved item was identified involving your failure to maintain primary containment integrity during refueling operations. This event will be reviewed further to evaluate your initial corrective actions, as well as the safety significance of the event.

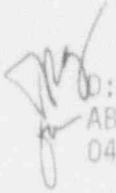
It is also our understanding that, during the exit interview conducted on April 16, 1992, Mr. L. A. England, Director, Nuclear Licensing, committed to modify or disposition all safe shutdown required motor-operated valves to correct the design limitations, identified in NRC Information Notice 92-18 involving the possibility of valve motor damage during a control room fire, prior to restart of the plant.

The decision to maintain the plant shutdown, as a result of damage caused by high winds, and to enter the refueling outage earlier than originally scheduled, was a conservative decision by management. This is an indication that management's approach to plant safety is a high priority at the River Bend Station.

*RIV:SRI:DRP/C *PE:DRP/C
EJFord EECollins
04/17/92 04/21/92

*C:DRP/C
PHHarrell
04/21/92

D:DRP
ABBeach
04/28/92



*previously concurred

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PDR ADDOCK 05000458
G PDR

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You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96,511.

Should you have any questions regarding this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Thomas P. Gwynn

A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A - Notice of Violation
2. Appendix B - NRC Inspection Report
50-458/92-08

cc w/enclosures:

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

Winston & Strawn
ATTN: Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esq.
1401 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3502

Gulf States Utilities
ATTN: Les England, Director
Nuclear Licensing
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

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

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

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

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

Hall Bohlinger, Administrator
Radiation Protection Division
P.O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2135

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

R. D. Martin
DRP

Lisa Shea, RM/ALF
DRSS-RPEPS

Project Engineer (DRP/C)
DRS

Senior Resident Inspector Fort Calhoun

Resident Inspector
Section Chief (DRP/C)

MIS System

RSTS Operator

RIV File

Senior Resident Inspector, Cooper