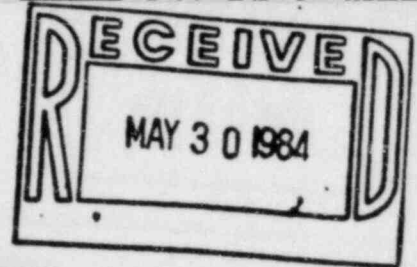


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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Gentlemen:

I understand that, some years ago, numerous problems in the design and procurement of materials for River Bend were called to your attention, but the NRC declined to take steps to enter corrections on the basis that the licensee, Gulf States Utilities, had, themselves identified the problems, and there was reason to believe that they would enter the necessary corrections. This has not proven to be the case.

Despite the efforts of GSU's prime contractor, Stone & Webster, there is still no direct traceability on the material used in the conductors for thermocouple extension wire at River Bend.

On 600V power cable and on insulated 600V control cable, there is no known test by the vendor, Okonite, on their repairs and splices made in the factory, to qualify this material for Class 1E nuclear power plant application,

The cable tray vendor, Husky Products, Florence, Ky, has gone out of business, thus throwing into question the qualification of all replacement cable tray used at River Bend. Also, much of the cable tray is aluminum, and there is no good procedure in place to insure that aluminum tray will not be inadvertently used in radiation areas of the plant. Finally, Husky proposed that, with the close-spaced cable tray rungs used at River Bend, to make bending radius on cable drop-throughs of large diameter cables, tray rungs be removed. However, such trays have not been qualified to the plant's seismic criteria!

Finally, the plant last year sustained considerable damage from the heavy flooding that occurred in the area. Nowhere in Stone & Webster's PSAR or FSAR is such flooding contemplated, nor is any provision made to re-qualify critical plant components in the wake of the damage that would be caused by such flooding. The first knowledge of damage is likely to be a catastrophic failure during a SCRAM condition when critical components fail to perform as a result of weakening caused by prolonged submersion in brackish water. The NRC should insist that this matter be addressed before any further licensing is granted.

Sincerely,



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