May 24, 1984

Gulf States

The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has published the results of its safety review of Gulf States Utilities Company's and Cajun Electric Power Cooperative's application for a license to operate the River Bend Station now under construction.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, May 24, 1984.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Rep. Markey/cc: Rep. Marlenee
Sen. Johnston
Sen. Long
Rep. Long
Rep. Moore

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

AUG 9 1983

The Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnston:

Your letter of July 19, 1983, regarding the cracks in the common foundation mat at the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, has been forwarded to me for action. I am pleased to provide you the following information.

There have been two incidents of water seepage through the common foundation mat at the Waterford 3 nuclear facility. The first occurrence was identified and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified in July 1977. The location of the water seepage was in the area where the concrete which supports the containment vessel was to be placed. The sealing and repair of the cracks was considered necessary by the licensee's architect-engineer before placing the containment support concrete, because the water could have been detrimental to the newly placed concrete. A method of repair was determined and the cracks were satisfactorily sealed and repaired. NRC Region IV inspected the corrective actions and concluded that the cracks were satisfactorily repaired.

A second occurrence was reported in May 1983 when a series of leaks were discovered in a different location. This event was documented in a noncompliance report and the NRC was notified. The cracks were identified by the observation of a small amounts of water percolating through the top of the mat at several locations.

Engineering studies were conducted by Ebasco, the architect-engineer, to determine if any detrimental or deleterious effects could result from water seeping through the 12-foot steel reinforced concrete mat. These studies examined the stability of the containment vessel against flotation and overturning under buoyant conditions caused by postulated groundwater intrusion, by groundwater induced corrosion of the reinforcing steel and the containment vessel, and by any effect on the base mat structural integrity due to groundwater percolating through the mat.

Our NRC inspectors are currently monitoring the recent leakage and reviewing the studies. The cracks are not visible to the naked eye and are evidenced only by the moist spots on the unpainted floor, and by imperfections on painted surfaces.

As a result of recent anonymous concerns, NRC has initiated an independent inquiry to determine if the indications have been properly evaluated. We have also learned that Lousiana Power & Light has hired an independent consultant to review the significance of the leakage. A report on this independent review is scheduled to be available September 1, 1983.

I trust that this information is responsive to your request. We will provide you the results of the ongoing studies and our conclusions when they become available. If you have any additional questions or require additional information, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

William J. Dircks
Executive Director
for Operations

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