



GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775

AREA CODE FOR 833-8088 344-8881

September 18, 1992

RBG- 37498

File Nos. G9.5, G9.25.1.3

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

River Bend Station - Unit 1
Docket No. 50-458

Enclosed is Gulf States Utilities Company's Special Report concerning inoperative meteorological instrumentation at River Bend Station (RBS). This report is submitted pursuant to RBS Technical Specification 3.3.7.3 and 6.9.2.

Sincerely,

W.H. Odell
Manager - Oversight
River Bend Nuclear Group

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cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Arlington, TX 76011

NRC Resident Inspector
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St. Francisville, LA 70775

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Atlanta, GA 30339-3064

Mr. C.R. Oberg
Public Utility Commission of Texas
7800 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 400 North
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Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Nuclear Energy Division
P.O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135
ATTN: Administrator

REPORTED CONDITION

On September 1, 1992, with the reactor shut down for refueling (Operational Condition 5), abnormal traces on the primary and secondary 150 foot wind direction analog chart recorders were observed during a routine surveillance. These square corner traces are indicative of failure of both primary and secondary channel wind direction sensors at the 150 foot location. Note that the primary channel instrumentation had been previously rendered inoperable. Therefore, with both the primary and secondary wind direction channels out of service, this report is submitted pursuant to Technical Specifications 3.3.7.3 and 6.9.2.

INVESTIGATION

The meteorological tower at River Bend Station is a 150 foot open latticed tower located approximately 2800 feet west of the reactor building. Meteorological instrumentation on the tower is located at elevations of 30 feet and 150 feet, and was supplied by Teledyne-Geotec.

The secondary channel failure was investigated under MWO R153300. Note that the previous failure of the primary channel was attributed to an aged and weathered cable. With no obvious damage present, and secondary sensor chart recordings similar to those of the primary sensor chart recording, the failure of the secondary sensor also appears to be caused by an aged and weathered cable. This natural aging/weathering process may have been aggravated by hurricane Andrew, which passed within 25 miles of River Bend Station. Hurricane Andrew's winds of up to 84 miles per hour were recorded at the meteorological tower.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Maintenance Work Order (MWO) R153300 provides for the replacement of all instrumentation on the meteorological tower, which consists of primary and secondary wind speed sensors at the 30 foot and 150 foot locations, and primary and secondary wind direction sensors at the 30 foot and 150 foot locations. All cables running between these instruments and the boom age junction boxes will also be replaced under MWO R153300.