



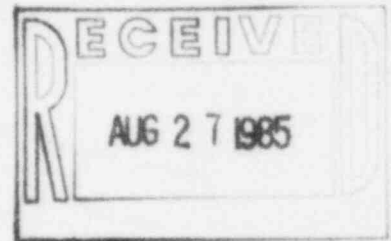
GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 120 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775

AREA CODE 504 635-6094 346-8651

August 21, 1985
RBC- 21,914
File Nos. G9.5, G15.4.1

Mr. Robert D. Martin, Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011



Dear Mr. Martin:

River Bend Station - Unit 1
Refer to: Region IV
Docket No. 50-458/Report 85-29

This letter is in response to the Notice of Violation contained in NRC I&E Inspection Report No. 50-458/85-29. The inspection was performed by Mr. L. E. Ellershaw and D. P. Tamlinson during the period April 1 - July 12, 1985, of activities authorized by NRC Construction Permit CPPR-145 for River Bend Station Unit No. 1.

Gulf States Utilities Company's (GSU) response to the Notice of Violation 85-29-01, "Failure to Assure Conformance of Safety - Related Structural Steel Welds with Requirements," is provided in the enclosed attachment. This completes GSU's response to the Notice of Violation.

Sincerely,

W. J. Cahill, Jr.
Senior Vice President
River Bend Nuclear Group

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Attachment

IC-122/85

ATTACHMENT

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Response to Notice of Violation

Reference

Notice of Violation - E. H. Johnson letter to W. J. Cahill dated August 2, 1985.

Refer to Docket 50-458/85-29.

Response to 85-29-01 "Failure to Assure Conformance of Safety-Related Structural Steel Welds with Requirements"

Reason for the Violation

The cause of this deficiency appeared to be the inability of Field Quality Control (FQC) inspectors to consistently apply adequate inspection techniques during structural steel visual weld acceptance.

Corrective Steps Which Have Been Taken and Results Achieved

Additional samples were taken of welds previously accepted by the eight inspectors identified during the initial audit. One of these eight inspectors only inspected two additional Category I welds and these inspection reports were for inspection of erection seat welds, defined as temporary. Therefore, no additional reinspection was performed for that inspector. A total of 42 connections representing 75 welds were reinspected for the remaining seven inspectors. Results of the reinspection are documented on Type "C" Inspection Report S-5620033. Additionally, earlier quality verification inspections were performed in association with GSU DR-43 and DR-78. Type "C" Inspection Reports S-52620000 and S-2620012 document verification of weld inspections performed by six inspectors, representing 107 welds. Inspection Report S-3201307, S-3201319, S-3201320 and S-3201381 document verification of weld inspection by seven inspectors, representing 70 welds. These quality verification inspection results, which cover a four-year period of structural welding inspection at River Bend Station, establishes a confidence factor that structural welding inspections were performed in accordance with the existing criteria.

N&D 11756 was dispositioned "Accept-As-Is" for the welding discontinuities identified during the initial NRC audit. Due to the fact that the inspectors involved are no longer employed at River Bend Station, specific corrective action for those inspectors is not applicable.

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NOTE: GSU - Deficiency Report 43 - "Unsatisfactory inspections by SWEC FQC Inspector" was closed by NRC Inspection Report 82-16.

GSU - Deficiency Report 78 - "Failure of FQC Inspector to detect undersize weld" was reviewed and closed as documented in NRC Inspection Report No. 84-30.

Training was provided on June 18, 1985 for those structural inspectors currently performing visual weld inspections. This training emphasized the weld acceptance criteria applicable to current structural weld acceptance.

Corrective Steps Which Will Be Taken to Avoid Further Violations

None.

Date When Full Compliance Was Achieved

Full compliance was achieved on August 8, 1985.

