

RIVER \* AND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775 AREA CODE 504 635-6094 346-8651

> January 27, 1986 RBG- 23077 File Nos. G9.5, G9.25.1.5

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

Dear Mr. Martin:

FFB - 5 1986

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

Attached for your information is a report containing a brief description of changes to the River Bend Station (RBS) initial test program and a summary of the safety evaluation for the change. This report is provided with regard to the RBS Facility Operating License NPF-47, Section 2.C(12).

Sincerely,

L.A. England

Manager-Engineering, Nuclear Fuels & Licensing River Bend Nuclear Group

JEB/RJK/je

Attachment

cc: Director of Inspection & Enforcement U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555

> 8602120063 860127 PDR ADOCK 05000458

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#### ATTACHMENT

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# SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE (FFAR FIG 14.2-4)

Figure 14.2-4 of the River Bend Station (RBS) Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) identifies the Start-up and Test Condition Flow Map. This revision raises the upper thermal power limit on Test Condition 1 from 20 to 35 precent thermal power.

## SUMMARY OF SAFETY EVALUATION

## DISCUSSION:

Regulatory Guide 1.68 Revision 2, August 1978, Appendix A, addresses the initial test program and in particular the power ascension tests. In the description of the test program requirements it does not require a specific format as is presently being used (i.e. Test Conditions 1 thru 6 for Power Ascension Testing). It does specify that low power tests (normally less than 5% power) be performed prior to power ascension tests and it details which tests must be performed during power ascension. GSU has adopted the test program described in the FSAR based on the General Electric Startup Test Specifications. The FSAR states that each area of startup testing (Fuel Load, Open Vessel Testing, Heatup, Power Ascension) is a prerequisite in itself which is completely reviewed and evaluated by the augmented Facility Review Committee (FRC) prior to starting tests in the succeeding area.

FSAR Figure 14.2-4 currently describes Test Condition 1 to occur between 5 and 20 percent thermal power with the recirculation pumps operating on slow speed. This revision increases the upper thermal power limit on Test Condition 1 from 20 to 35 percent thermal power.

Increasing thermal power to 35% places the plant in a more stable condition for the operators to conduct normal operations. At this higher power, equipment can be operated closer to rated conditions which allows the operator to operate the plant closer to normal conditions. Therefore, more automatic actions are in effect and the unit is easier to operate from an operators point of view. This tends to reduce the probability of an event occurring due to unstable or unreliable operation.

At higher power levels more accurate results will be achieved during the conduct of calibrations of the LPRM and APRM system.

The revision enables GSU to conduct the validation of the Process Computer Core Thermal 1 mits Evaluation Program at a higher power level for more accuracy during comparison with the Off-line Computer Program. The safety of the plant is maintained by observing and implementing the Technical Specification requirements. The applicable surveillance test procedures have been implemented and are current. The Technical Specifications prohibit the plant from going above 25 percent power until the core thermal limits determination and appropriate nuclear instrumentation calibrations have been completed. Therefore, raising the Test Condition 1 upper limit from 20 to 35 percent thermal power will not jeopardize the safety of the plant.

## CONCLUSION:

Changing the Test Condition 1 upper power limit from 20 to 35 percent thermal power does not represent an unreviewed safety question. The plant will continue to operate in a normal configuration within the Technical Specification requirements.