



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 22 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-458

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated February 18, 1988 as revised March 22, 1988, Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) (the licensee) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 for the River Bend Station, Unit 1. The proposed amendment would modify Technical Specification (TS) 3.4.2.1. to change the setpoint tolerance of the safety valve function of the safety/relief valves from $\pm 1\%$ to $(+)0(-)2\%$ of the set pressure. This proposed change would make the tolerance consistent with Section 5.2.2.10 of the licensee's safety analysis report and the vendor's design specification. The March 22, 1988 submittal corrected an editorial error and did not alter the staff's proposed no significant hazards consideration issued on April 6, 1988.

2.0 EVALUATION

The 16 safety/relief valves (S/RVs) are mounted on the 4 main steam lines and provide overpressure protection for the reactor coolant pressure boundary. The current River Bend TS 3.4.2.1 requires that the setpoint tolerance for the safety function of the S/RVs be within $\pm 1\%$ of the setpoint. Section 5.2.2.10 of the updated safety analysis report (USAR), on the other hand, states that the valves must operate within +0 percent to -2 percent of the nameplate set pressure. The licensee's February 10, 1988 submittal states that the correct set pressure tolerance is as stated in the USAR which is also consistent with the reactor vendor's design specification. Accordingly, the licensee has requested that the TSs be modified to agree with the tolerance stated in the USAR. The licensee's submittal states that two of the 16 S/RVs have been declared inoperable because the setpoints do not meet the $\pm 1\%$ tolerance; however, they do meet the +0 percent to -2 percent tolerance. The remaining 14 valves are operable and TS 3.4.2.1 allows continued operation in this configuration.

The licensee's proposed change would reduce the maximum allowable safety function setpoint by lowering the setpoint tolerance by 1 percent. This change is in the conservative direction because the safety valve function will occur at a lower system pressure.

Based on the above considerations, the staff concludes that the proposed change in the S/RV setpoint tolerances is acceptable.

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3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment involves a change in the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposures. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Section 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The staff has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Date: May 10, 1988

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