



**GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY**

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AREA CODE 504 555-6294 346-8657

September 30, 1988  
RBG- 28909  
File Nos. 69.5, 69.42

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

Gentlemen:

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

Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) is providing this letter to address the progress of procurement and evaluation activities for a system meeting Regulatory Guide (RG)-1.97 neutron monitoring requirements as identified in a letter dated July 6, 1988 (RBG-28211).

An amendment request to Facility Operating License NPF-47 Condition 2.C(14), Attachment 5, Item 2, "Neutron Flux Monitoring Implementation", was submitted on May 25, 1988 and approved in an SER dated September 6, 1988. The license amendment granted an extension to the current implementation date from the second refueling outage to the next refueling outage ten months after receipt of the NRC Staff's Safety Evaluation Report on the Boiling Water Reactor Owner's Group neutron flux monitor alternate design position but no later than January 1, 1991.

To date, the development of a bid specification for a neutron monitoring system meeting RG 1.97 requirements has been completed and is currently being prepared for issuance. It is estimated that the bid specification will be issued by the first quarter 1989. GSU understands this schedule will support the BWR0G and N. C. which plan to complete the generic review of the alternate design during the last quarter of 1988. Future updates will be provided at the end of each subsequent calendar quarter until the subject license condition has been satisfied.

If further information is required, please contact Mr. Rick J. King at (504) 381-4146.

Sincerely

J. E. Booker  
Manager-River Bend Oversight  
River Bend Nuclear Group

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