GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY
POST OFFICE BOX 2951 • BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77704
AREA CODE 409 838-6631

December 15, 1986
RBG - 25090
File No. G9.5

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

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

With regard to your letter dated November 27, 1986 concerning the effects of potential bankruptcy of Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) on River Bend Station (RBS), I want to assure you that GSU remains fully committed to the safe operation of RBS in accordance with the operating license, NRC and other Federal, State and local regulations and INPO guidelines. GSU continues to fulfill all its financial obligations related to RBS. As discussed herein, GSU will not compromise plant safety to control expenditures.

In a letter dated July 29, 1986, to your office on this subject, GSU discussed its financial status. GSU provided information concerning the status of rate case filings in both the Texas and Louisiana service areas. GSU has continued to advise both your office and Region IV of new developments. To update GSU's July 29, 1986 letter, on December 2, 1986, the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) denied GSU its request for $100 million in emergency rate relief. GSU has filed a court appeal, asking the court to act expeditiously. GSU is hopeful the court will overturn the LPSC's decision.

The specific information requested in your letter is addressed in the attachment to this letter.

8612230443 861215
PDR ADOCK 05000458
I PDR

A001
1/1

In conclusion, GSU wishes to confirm that it will continue to support its commitment to the safe operation of RBS. No action will be taken which could adversely affect the quality or safety of operation of RBS. As requested in your letter, your office will be kept informed of developments in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

WJC/JEB/RJK/je

Attachment

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

ATTACHMENT

Response to NRC Letter Dated November 27, 1986

Staffing

The current RBS actual staffing is at 90% of the complement authorized by GSU. The RBS approved staffing for 1986 was greater than that for 1985. GSU overall staffing levels have not decreased on RBS and recruiting is continuing to fill the remaining RBS positions.

Training

GSU is actively training in all areas addressed in the FSAR. Adequate resources are available to continue to provide well-qualified instructors for all areas of committed training and for the maintenance of the training facilities, including the full scope plant reference simulator located at the Training Center. GSU remains committed to obtaining INPO accreditation of its training program as evidenced by the successful accreditation of three training programs. Four additional training programs have been submitted for accreditation. All other training programs needed for full INPO accreditation are on schedule for completion. During the last NRC requalification examination, eight out of nine individuals were requalified. Recent licensed operator examinations resulted in 100% of the Senior Reactor Operator applicants passing and five out of seven Reactor Operator's passing. In summary, there has not been a reduction in training programs at RBS.

Maintenance

The backlog of open Priority 1 Corrective Maintenance Work Orders has been reduced. A recent trend of Corrective Maintenance Work Orders shows an additional reduction in the total open backlog.

Scheduled maintenance tasks such as Preventive Maintenance, Equipment Qualification tasks and Surveillance Tests are periodically reviewed to ensure that proper frequencies and priorities are established. When practical, scheduled maintenance tasks having similar activities and frequencies are consolidated to enhance the efficiency of the Maintenance Program.

No maintenance tasks have been deferred which would impact the safe operation of the plant. Maintenance has and will be scheduled and performed as required to maintain the plant in a safe operating condition.

Design Change Modifications

River Bend Station has just completed a planned outage during which time approximately 150 scheduled design change modifications were completed. The next planned outage is the first refueling outage during the fall of 1987. No design changes, which would effect the safe operation of RBS, are being deferred.

It is GSU's intent to continue to meet all regulatory requirements and commitments. During the fall of 1987 refueling outage, GSU is scheduling corrective maintenance, surveillance testing, in-service examination testing and performance of those corrective activities identified in the interim. In addition, items are being scheduled as required by license conditions. GSU management continues to review discretionary spending while maintaining a dedicated vigilance for the design and safety of RBS operations and support.

Parts Procurement

River Bend Station has not deferred the procurement of any operational plant parts. Procurement of parts and materials in support of our recent outage was 100% effective, with required materials available as needed. Identification and purchase of 1987 refueling outage parts and materials have not been curtailed. Replenishment of inventory stock continues to maintain sufficient levels to support plant operations.

Management and Quality Assurance

There has been no reduction in Quality Assurance (QA) or management oversight programs at RBS. The total authorized GSU QA personnel complement has not decreased for the past two (2) years. GSU is actively recruiting to fill open positions and should be at its total authorized complement by the first quarter of 1987. In the interim, positions are being filled by contractor employees.