

June 15, 1989

Docket No. 50-458

Gulf States Utilities
ATTN: Mr. James C. Deddens
Senior Vice President (RBNG)
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Dear Mr. Deddens:

SUBJECT: CRACK INDICATION IN THE INLET FEEDWATER NOZZLE (N4-A) TO SAFE END
WELD - RIVER BEND STATION (TAC NO. 73115)

The NRC staff has reviewed your May 15 and 19, 1989 submittals regarding the circumferential crack flaw found in the Inconel 182 butter area of the Inconel weldment between the N4-A feedwater nozzle and carbon steel safe end. This flaw was found during your 1989 refueling outage. Based on our review of your flaw evaluation, we conclude that River Bend Station, Unit 1 can be safely operated for one additional 18-month fuel cycle in its present configuration pending satisfactory results of the mid-cycle ultrasonic examination of the flawed weld. We request that the results of the mid-cycle ultrasonic examination be submitted to NRC for review prior to plant start-up from the mid-cycle outage to ensure that the structural integrity of the weldment is maintained.

The staff's Safety Evaluation is enclosed as discussed in our May 23, 1989 letter. The reporting and/or recordkeeping requirements contained in this letter affect fewer than ten respondents; therefore, OMB clearance is not required under P.L. 96-511.

Sincerely,

/s/

Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

[RB CRACK INDICATIONS]

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PD4 Plant File

PD4/LA *22*
PNoonan
06/15/89

PD4/PM *WP*
WPaulson:cs
06/14/89

PD4/D *4*
FHebdon
06/15/89

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter A. Paulson".

Walter A. Paulson, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. James C. Deddens
Gulf States Utilities Company

River Bend Nuclear Plant

cc:

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