



GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION P.O. BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775
AREA CODE 504 635-0034 346-8681

June 26, 1989
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File Nos. G9.5, G9.25.1.4

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

Gentlemen:

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

Please find enclosed an Informational Report regarding in-line reactor coolant conductivity monitoring at River Bend Station - Unit 1. This report is being submitted to provide information regarding the root cause and corrective actions taken for this event.

Sincerely,

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

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INFORMATIONAL REPORT

On 3/26/89 with the unit in Operational Condition 5 (refueling) the in-line continuous recording conductivity monitor for the reactor coolant system became inoperable as a result of associated system shutdown alignments to support the second refueling outage and reactor coolant conductivity exceeding the upper range of the recording instrument of 1.0 uS/cm. During cold shutdown conditions, River Bend Station (RBS) Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.4.4.c requires continuous recording of the conductivity of the reactor coolant "or, when the continuous recording conductivity monitor is inoperable for up to 31 days, obtaining an in-line conductivity measurement at least once per ... 24 hours ...".

On 4/27/89 the continuous recording conductivity monitor had been inoperable for a total of 31 days and remained in this condition until 5/31/89; a total of 65 days. The Technical Specifications do not provide any guidance on the required actions if the 31 day limit has been exceeded. Additionally, on 5/28/89 at 0900, thirty hours (24 hours plus 25%) had elapsed since the last reactor coolant sample was obtained. The primary containment integrated leak rate test (ILRT) was being conducted and prevented access to the normal sample point located inside containment. At 0805 on 5/30/89, normal sampling was resumed on a once per 24 hour schedule. The continuous recording conductivity monitor was subsequently restored to operable status on 5/31/89.

To comply with the Technical Specifications, the limiting condition for operation (LCO) was entered in accordance with Technical Specification 4.0.3. Action Statement 3.4.4.c.1 was complied with by performing the required engineering evaluation of the effects of the out-of-limit condition on the structural integrity of the reactor coolant system. Since all 24 hour in-line conductivity measurements, as well as the required once per 72 hour grab samples analyses taken prior to and after this event, showed that the conductivities (0.98-2.43 uS/cm) were significantly below the limits of the Technical Specification limit of 10.0 uS/cm, there was no impact on the structural integrity of the reactor coolant system.

As identified in a previous informational report dated 1/28/88 (reference RBG-27357), a Technical Specification change to remove the 31 day limitation is being processed. This will prevent the use of Action Statements when appropriate surveillances are being conducted to ensure compliance with Technical Specification limits.