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GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

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September 12, 1979

RBG - 6698

File G9.5

Mr. Karl V. Seyfrit, Director
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Dear Mr. Seyfrit:

River Bend Station Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-458, 50-459

On July 12, 1979 Gulf States Utilities submitted a 30 day status report on the "T" weld 10CFR 50.55(e) reportable deficiency originally identified on June 12, 1979. That status report covered parts 10CFR 50.55(e)i and ii which address possible safety implications resulting from the faulty "T" welds and a description of the deficiency. Since the July 12, 1979 status letter, Gulf States has continued to investigate the cause of the faulty "T" welds fabricated by the Graver Energy Systems in their shop in Chicago. Preliminary investigations indicate that current or line voltage variations caused the cracking in the subarc pass of the "T" weld. It is presently planned that the defect will be repaired and ultrasonically tested once the imbedments are installed in the field. A final status report on the cause of the deficiency and the corrective action to be taken will be provided within 60 days.

Sincerely,

J. G. Weigand
General Manager - Nuclear Projects

WJR/mb

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