



**GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY**

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775  
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March 2, 1990  
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

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

Gulf States Utilities (GSU) on October 17, 1989 provided a supplemental response to Generic Letter 88-14, Instrument Air Problems in Light Water Reactors. In this response GSU reported that after subsequent evaluation of particulate sampling test results conducted in response to Generic Letter 88-14, one instrument air header sample was discovered to contain a number of particles which failed to meet applicable acceptance criteria.

GSU has performed an evaluation of the samples and the containment/drywell header, where the samples were taken, specifically, the control rod drive flow control valves and the scram discharge volume vent and drain valves. As stated in the previous response (RBG-31629) a preliminary evaluation of the sample revealed a very low concentration of particles larger than the acceptable USAR limits, therefore the possibility of any safety or operability concerns was not created by this condition. The evaluation concentrated on the possible causes and proliferation of corrosion products and/or intrusion of particulate matter into this header.

Based on operating experience in the instrument air system (IAS) over the past two years and dew point readings recorded after the IAS dryers were replaced, it was determined that the particulates were most likely created during a period of relatively high moisture content prior to IAS dryer replacement. It was also determined that since the volume of air flow used in gathering the sample was large

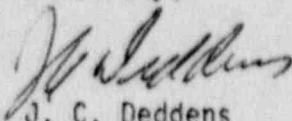
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compared to the volume required for the users on that header, the corrosion products will not in the future create any significant operability or safety concerns. Also, it is anticipated that the next particulate sample from this header, which will be taken during refueling outage 3 (RF-3), will confirm that corrosion product contamination of the IAS containment drywell header is being reduced over time by installed filtration devices. Maintenance work orders have been initiated, which will inspect and replace the filtration media for the control rod drive flow control valves and the scram discharge volume vent and drain valves. These maintenance work orders will be completed by RF-3.

If you have any question on this subject, please contact Mr. L. L. Dietrich of my staff at (504) 381-4866.

Sincerely,



J. C. Deddens  
Senior Vice President  
River Bend Nuclear Group



TFP/WHO/LAE/LLD/WJS/pg

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
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NRC Resident Inspector  
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STATE OF LOUISIANA  
PARISH OF WEST FELICIANA  
In the Matter of  
GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

(River Bend Station - Unit 1)

# AFFIDAVIT

J. C. Daddens, being duly sworn, states that he is a Senior Vice President of Gulf States Utilities Company; that he is authorized on the part of said company to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission the documents attached hereto; and that all such documents are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

J. C. Deddens

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and Parish above named, this 2nd day of March, 1990. My Commission expires with Life.

Claudia F. Hurst  
Claudia F. Hurst  
Notary Public in and for  
West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana