GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775

AREA CODE 504 635-6094 346-8651

March 16, 1993
RBG- 38248
File No. G1.11.7

Ms. Mary Simmons
Environmental Protection Assistant
Enforcement Branch (6W-EAO)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Ms. Simmons:

NPDES Permit No. LA0042731
River Bend Station - Unit 1

This letter is a written follow-up to the telephone notification, made at 10:27 a.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 1993, of an unanticipated bypass of the sanitary waste treatment system to a storm drain at River Bend Station. On the afternoon of March 8, 1993, the wastewater treatment operator adjusted the sanitary system from the typical daytime operation of 15-20 gpm for typical nighttime operation of 10 gpm throughput. Upon arrival at 6:00 am the next morning, the wastewater treatment operator discovered the overflow of the equalization tank. The operator immediately diverted excess wastewater to idle package plants in the sanitary system, halting the bypass by 6:30 a.m. He then traced the cause of the high flow rate to two malfunctioning urinals and two malfunctioning toilets located in buildings not occupied during the night, together draining 36 gpm fresh water to the equalization tank, thus causing the bypass. The wastewater treatment operator calculated the volume of water overflowed from the equalization tank to the storm drain at between 3200 and 3300 gallons.

Since the bypass ceased before we could sample it, we collected a grab sample from the equalization tank at 8:30 a.m. to evaluate the wastewater quality with respect to effluent limits. The analytical results from this sample yielded a pH of 7.76 standard units, a TSS of 42.5 mg/l, a TOC of 28 mg/l and a Fecal Coliform of 9000 colonies/100 mls. Total organic carbon was performed instead of BOD_5, since this bypass entered a stormwater outfall having a TOC limit of 50 mg/l. These results show that the untreated sanitary wastewater involved in the bypass was very dilute, and thus posed no significant impact on the receiving stream.

To prevent a recurrence of this bypass incident, we will install flow indicating and/or recording equipment for each lift station at the treatment plant to indicate contributing discharges from various station areas. A level indicator will also be installed on the equalization tank with an alarm/call-out system to provide immediate notification of system malfunctioning during "off-shift" hours. These installations should be complete by June 15, 1993.

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I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under the direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Sincerely

J. E. Booker

J. E. Booker
Manager - Safety Assessment
and Quality Verification
River Bend Nuclear Group

LAE/MAH/PWC/re

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