



GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775
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June 8, 1993
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File No. G9.5, G9.33.1

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

Gentlemen:

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

This letter provides Gulf States Utilities Company's (GSU) response to NRC Bulletin 93-02, "Debris Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers."

River Bend Station (RBS) is a General Electric (GE) BWR-6/Mark III and utilizes a suppression pool similar to that of the plant which was identified in the bulletin. Consequently, the potential for ECCS suction strainer fouling was considered a serious issue which required a high level of attention. Prior to issuance of the bulletin, GSU formed a task force to thoroughly review the issues associated with this topic and provide recommendations to RBS management to address this potential concern. GSU has been corresponding with the event plant on a periodic basis to ensure that all aspects of their investigation applicable to our plant are factored into our analysis. Members of GSU's task force visited the event plant to provide an independent assessment of their corrective actions and to gain additional details for our investigation.

RBS is currently shut down for an unrelated issue. All immediate actions requested by the bulletin have been performed. A drywell walkdown was performed to identify any filters or other fibrous materials installed in the drywell. RBS does not utilize filter material in our drywell unit coolers during plant operation. Filter medium is installed after shutdown to prevent drywell cooler fouling and is removed prior to drywell closure. Also prior to startup, a thorough drywell walkdown is performed which would identify any material of this nature. The drywell coolers at RBS are located on elevation 141' with the suppression pool nominally at elevation 90', therefore any filter medium used in

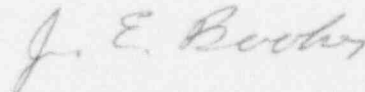
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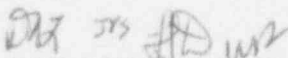
these unit coolers during outages is separated from the suppression pool by approximately 50 feet and three elevations. Any fibrous material inadvertently misplaced at this elevation would tend to be contained by the floor grating and not reach the suppression pool. In containment, additional precautions are being taken to ensure removal of all fibrous material after work completion to minimize the possibility of material intrusion into the suppression pool. For example, maintenance packages performed in containment will include precautions informing personnel of this concern and additional reviews for post-maintenance cleanup. RBS has in place, as part of our Suppression Pool Cleanliness Program, a policy to visually inspect the ECCS suction strainers located in the suppression pool for debris during each cold shutdown greater than 10 days. Additionally, to address these concerns, RBS has increased management attention to containment housekeeping associated with suppression pool cleanliness.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Leif L. Dietrich of my staff at (504) 381-4866.

Sincerely,



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



DNL/JPS/LLD/WJS

cc:

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

STATE OF LOUISIANA)

PARISH OF WEST FELICIANA)

In the Matter of)

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY)

Docket No. 50-458

(River Bend Station - Unit 1)

AFFIDAVIT

J. E. Booker, being duly sworn, states that he is a Manager-Safety Assessment and Quality Verification for 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. E. Booker
J. E. Booker

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and Parish above named, this 8th day of June, 1993. My Commission expires with Life.

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