



GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE LOUISIANA 70775
AREA CODE 504 635-8094 346-8651

June 29, 1990
RBG-33143
File Nos. G9.5, G9.42

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

Gentlemen:

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

Gulf states Utilities Company (GSU) is providing this letter to address the progress of procurement and evaluation activities for a system meeting Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.97 neutron monitoring requirements. Based on Facility Operating License NPF-47, License Condition 2.C(14), Attachment 5, Item 3 as modified by Amendment 39 to the license and the NRC Safety Evaluation Report on the associated BWR Owners Group License Topical Report (NEEO-31588), River Bend is required to meet the License Condition requirements prior to startup from Refueling Outage 4.

Activities to date involving the procurement of a neutron monitoring system meeting Regulatory Guide 1.97 requirements include the completion of a review of the previously developed bid specification to incorporate the present NRC and BWROG guidance. The resulting revision to the bid specification is in progress. Due to procedural changes, the bid specification revision process will require more time than originally anticipated. Based on current progress, the bid specification revision is estimated to be complete in the third quarter of 1990. Issuance of the specification will be expedited to the maximum extent practicable in an effort to achieve issuance prior to the fourth quarter of 1990. This date will still allow completion of the license condition as required if the successful vendor can comply with the specification. In addition, GSU continues to actively follow the BWROG committee efforts to provide additional guidance on the systems presently available.

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If further information is required, please contact Mr. B. M. Burmeister of my staff at (504) 381-4148.

Sincerely,



W. H. Odell

Manager-River Bend Oversight
River Bend Nuclear Group



TFP/LAE/LLD/BMB/pg

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