



**GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY**

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Gentlemen:

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

Enclosed is Gulf States Utilities Company's Special Report concerning an inoperative loose-part detection system channel. This report is submitted pursuant to River Bend Station Technical Specification 3.3.7.9 and 6.9.2.

Sincerely,

*W. H. Odell*  
for W. H. Odell  
Manager-Oversight  
River Bend Nuclear Group

*W. H. Odell*  
TFP/LAE/PDG/RGW/DCH/TCS/pg  
*DCH*

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## **SPECIAL REPORT**

### **REPORTED CONDITION**

At approximately 0300 on 06/02/90, during a routine check of the loose parts monitoring (LPM) system by Operations, channel 8 was found to be inoperable. The red light providing failure indication of the channel 8 detector module was illuminated, indicating channel low background noise. The channel audio signal was checked and no background noise was observed. Therefore, the channel was declared inoperable. This Special Report is submitted pursuant to Technical Specification 3.3.7.9.

### **INVESTIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION**

Following the discovery of the inoperable channel, troubleshooting was initiated. First the detector module, and then the line driver, were replaced but the channel remained inoperable. As a test, the channel 6 accelerometer signal was input at the line driver for channel 8. This resulted in the control room indication returning to normal. Therefore, the trouble was determined to be either with the accelerometer or in the cable routed to the accelerometer within the drywell. Further troubleshooting could not be performed since the cable and accelerometer are inaccessible during plant power operations. Additional testing and analysis will be performed during the third refueling outage, scheduled to begin September 29, 1990.

A similar problem with channel 8 was found on 05/17/90. At that time, the inoperable condition cleared when the detector module was tested and reinstalled.

### **SAFETY ASSESSMENT**

The low background problem caused the channel 8 failure indication light to illuminate, indicating a malfunctioning channel. Since there is no loose part in the reactor vessel, the health and safety of the public and plant is not affected by this condition. In addition, the problem does not affect the capability of the remaining channels to detect loose parts in the reactor vessel since a common annunciator is initiated when any of the LPM channels detects an impact signal.

Note that both channels 7 and 8 are designed to detect loose parts in the upper portion of the reactor vessel. Thus, even with channel 8 inoperable, channel 7 remains available in the event that a loose part appears in the upper portion of the vessel.

A supplemental report will be submitted by 01/31/91 describing the cause of the malfunction of channel 8 and corrective actions taken to restore the system to operable status.