



GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RYAN PLAZA DRIVE POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775
AREA CODE 504 634-6281 634-6651

July 3, 1991
RBG- 35,294
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

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

Please find enclosed Licensee Event Report No. 91-011 for River Bend Station - Unit 1. This report is submitted pursuant to 10CFR50.73.

Sincerely,

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

1-2-91
LAE/PTG/GAB/DCH/PGB/kvm
DM

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 500 HRS. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE RECORDS AND REPORTS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (P330), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON DC 20555, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT (3150-0104), OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WASHINGTON DC 20503.

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EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)									
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAMES					DOCKET NUMBER(S)				
06	04	91	91	0111	00	07	03	91						05000				
														05000				

OPERATING MODE (8)		THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR § (Check one or more of the following): (1)									
1		20.402(b)		20.406(c)		50.73(a)(2)(iv)		73.71(b)			
20.406(a)(1)(i)		50.36(a)(1)		50.73(a)(2)(v)		73.71(c)		OTHER (Specify in Abstract below and in Text, NRC Form 366A)			
20.406(a)(1)(ii)		50.36(a)(2)		50.73(a)(2)(vi)		73.71(d)					
20.406(a)(1)(iii)		X 50.73(a)(2)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(vii)(A)		73.71(e)					
20.406(a)(1)(iv)		50.73(a)(2)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)		73.71(f)					
20.406(a)(1)(v)		50.73(a)(2)(iii)		50.73(a)(2)(ix)		73.71(g)					

AREA CODE

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CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS		CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS	

YES (if yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (SI)		
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LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-0104
EXPIRES 6/31/99

FACILITY NAME (1) RIVER BEND STATION	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 4 5 8 - 9 1	LER NUMBER (3)			PAGE (3)		
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
		0 1 1 1	0 0 0 2	0 1	0 4	0 4	

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 255A-1 (1/77))

REPORTED CONDITION

At 1424 on June 4, 1991, with the reactor in Operational Condition 1 (Power Operation), irradiated fuel was moved in the fuel building (*ND*) without prior performance of surveillance requirements under Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.6.5.2 (Secondary Containment Integrity - Fuel Building). Since the plant was in compliance with TS 3/4.6.5.1 (Secondary Containment Integrity Operating), and plant staff personnel took conservative actions to verify fuel building integrity, secondary containment integrity was assured prior to fuel movement. Thus, the intent of TS 3/4.6.5.2 was met. However, this report is submitted pursuant to 10CFR50.73(a)(2)(i)(B) to document the non-compliance with the surveillance requirement.

INVESTIGATION

At 0905 on 6/4/91 the fuel building ventilation system (*VG*) was placed in the refuel mode of operation. Fuel building pressure was verified to be greater than the required .25 inches of water vacuum by the reactor engineer.

At about 1330 the Shift Supervisor (SS) left the control room to observe the fuel inspection preparations in the fuel building (*ND*). Prior to entering the fuel handling floor, he toured the non-high radiation areas of the fuel building (*ND*). During this tour, he noted that all external doors were closed and that fuel building pressure was .7 inches of water vacuum. Following entry into the fuel handling floor, he consulted the Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) and the reactor engineer to assure that all the required actions had been taken prior to fuel movement. The SS assumed that Technical Specification 3/4.6.5.2 had been satisfied by the fuel inspection preparations and did not personally review it prior to fuel movement. At 1424 fuel movement began. After leaving the fuel building, the SS informed the Assistant Operations Supervisor that fuel movement had begun. During this discussion it was revealed that the fuel building pressure had been verified, but the surveillance had not been performed per the Technical Specification.

Due to the conservative and cautious actions of the operators and reactor engineers through inspections and station operating procedure (SOP) actions, it was found that fuel building integrity had been verified prior to moving irradiated fuel. While the surveillance test procedure (STP) had not been explicitly performed, all of the STP actions were implemented with the exception of one ventilation access hatch verification. The fuel building pressure was at .7 inches of water vacuum with the fuel building charcoal filtration train running. This pressure exceeded the .25 inches of water vacuum required by the Technical Specifications.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPROVED OMB NO 3150-0104

EXPIRES 8/31/86

FACILITY NAME (1) RIVER BEND STATION	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 4 5 8 9 1	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)		
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 305A's) (17)

Following the discovery that the surveillance had not been performed, all fuel inspection activity was halted. The surveillance procedure was completed at 1720 and the results confirmed compliance with TS requirements.

A review of the procedures involved found that TS 3.6.5.2 was referenced, but no signoff was required to verify that its conditions were met.

ROOT CAUSE

The procedures used during this evolution provided inadequate guidance to assure the requirements of TS 3.6.5.2 were met. These procedures included REP-0010, Special Nuclear Material (SNM) Movement, Control and Accounting, FHP-0007, Use of Fuel Preparation Machines, and FHP-0002, Fuel Handling Platform Operation. The lack of checklists, coupled with the duration of the work, led the Shift Supervisor to assume that all pertinent requirements had been met during preparations made in previous shifts. A contributing factor was that this was the first time that fuel movement had been performed when the plant was not in a refueling outage (Operational Condition 5).

A review of previous events revealed one similar LER. LER 88-010 reported that the surveillance requirements for TS 4.6.5.1(b) (Secondary Containment - Operating) had not been properly implemented for four doors; to verify that they were closed once every 31 days. The root cause was that the initial STP review was not adequate. However, in this event (LER 91-011), the STP was adequate, but there were deficiencies in other procedures.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The following corrective actions were taken:

1. Fuel handling operations were stopped and the surveillance under TS 4.C.5.2 was performed and found acceptable.
2. A review of Technical Specifications was performed identifying 12 Limiting Conditions for Operation associated with Operational Condition * (Handling of Irradiated Fuel in the Fuel Building). An independent review of these Technical Specifications was performed to verify that all other requirements were satisfied prior to fuel movement.

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER) TEXT CONTINUATION

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPROVED OMB NO. 3150-0104

EXPIRES 8/31/88

FACILITY NAME (1) RIVER BEND STATION	DOCKET NUMBER (2) 0 5 0 0 0 4 5 8 9 1	LER NUMBER (3)			PAGE (3)		
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER			
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TEXT (If more space is required, use additional NRC Form 3054's) (17)

3. Procedure FHP-0007 (Use of Fuel Preparation Machines) was revised to add a prerequisite requiring Secondary Containment Integrity - Fuel Building per Technical Specification 3.6.5.2.
4. Procedure FHP-0002 (Fuel Handling Platform Operation) was revised to add a step for SRO verification of the Technical Specification requirements prior to the handling of irradiated fuel.
5. Procedure REP-0010 (Special Nuclear Material (SNM) Movement Control and Accounting) was revised to incorporate a checklist with sign-offs by a Reactor Engineer and an SRO which includes verifying the surveillance requirement of TS 3/4.6.5.2 prior to handling irradiated fuel in the fuel building. Shift Supervisor review and approval is required prior to fuel handling.
6. The surveillance test procedure (STP) matrix will be revised to include an event-related matrix for Operational Condition *. This matrix will include all Technical Specification surveillances required prior to moving irradiated fuel in the fuel building regardless of the plant operational condition.
7. All of the operating crews were briefed by the Assistant Plant Manager - Operations, Radwaste and Chemistry on the significance of the missed surveillance and the importance of attention to detail.

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

The fuel building pressure was greater than the .25 inches of water vacuum required by the Technical Specifications and the fuel building charcoal filtration train was in service if a fuel drop accident had occurred during fuel movement, the fuel building ventilation exhaust would have been filtered as designed.

NOTE: Energy Industry Identification System Codes are identified in the text as (*xx*).