

GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY



IVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775
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July 24, 1992
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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
NRC Bulletin 92-01

This letter provides Gulf States Utilities Company's (GSU) response to NRC Bulletin 92-01, "Failure of Thermo-Lag 330 Fire Barrier System to Maintain Cabling in Wide Cable Trays and Small Conduits Free from Fire Damage."

GSU uses both 1-hour and 3-hour pre-formed Thermo-Lag 330 panels and conduit shapes in 14 fire areas at River Bend Station (RBS). The panels are used on cable trays ranging in width from 18 inches to 30 inches and the protected conduits range in size from 3/4 inch to 4 inches in diameter.

A list of Thermo-Lag wrapped raceways is included in surveillance test procedure (STP) 000-3602, "Fire Barrier Assembly Visual Inspection". A summary of the various rated Thermo-Lag barriers follows:

1-Hour Rated Conduit	3500 linear feet
1-Hour Rated Cable Tray	900 linear feet
3-Hour Rated Conduit	1000 linear feet
3-Hour Rated Cable Tray	350 linear feet

Included in the 1-hour cable tray estimate are 2 large, multi-tray enclosures located in F and G tunnels. Not listed above, but included in the surveillance procedure data sheet are:

1. An instrument rack on the 95 ft elevation of the control building of approximate size 6 ft x 6 ft x 2 ft
2. Three motor-operated valves, each protected by a Thermo-Lag covered unistrut enclosure.

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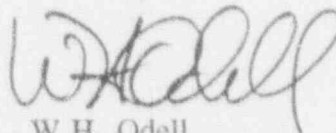
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All Thermo-Lag fire barriers at RBS were declared inoperable on October 26, 1989, following an unsuccessful fire endurance test performed by GSU at Southwest Research Institute. Hourly firewatch patrols were immediately established in compliance with the compensatory action required by Technical Specification 3/4.7.7. These fire watch patrols have been in continuous operation since October, 1989.

Upgrades to the existing Thermo-Lag barriers at RBS were tested; however, new concerns raised by the NRC regarding ampacity derating and qualification of initial fire resistance testing of Thermo-Lag have prevented implementation of these upgrades. Currently, GSU is participating in a NUMARC ad hoc committee on Thermo-Lag. NUMARC is coordinating an industry program to develop appropriate actions to restore fire barrier operability. This program will include establishment of a test database, development of guidance for applicability of tests, development of generic installation guidance, and consideration and coordination of additional testing as appropriate. The results of these efforts, when completed will be applied to the Thermo-Lag installations within the scope of Bulletin 92-01.

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

Sincerely,



W.H. Odell

Manager - Oversight
River Bend Nuclear Group



LAE/FRC/LLD/JCM/TMH/kvm

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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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

W. H. Odell, being duly sworn, states that he is a Manager-Oversight 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.


W. H. Odell

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and Parish above named, this 24th day of July, 1992. My Commission expires with Life.


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