

**GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY**

POWER PLANT STATION POST OFFICE BOX 1220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LA 70775

AREA CODE 504 CABLE 8064 346-8651

November 10, 1992

RBG- 37712

File Nos. G9.5, G15.4.1

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011

Gentlemen:

River Bend Station - Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-458/92-31

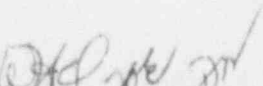
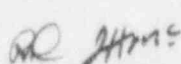

Pursuant to the request for additional information in Inspection Report 92-31, this letter provides the results of Gulf States Utilities Company's (GSU) further investigation of a self screening contractor incident of improperly certifying its personnel for unescorted access. The inspection was conducted by Messrs. B. Earnest and T. Dexter on September 8-11, 1992, of activities authorized by NRC Operating License NPF-47 for River Bend Station - Unit 1 (RBS). GSU's response is provided in the attachment.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. L.A. England at (504) 381-4145.

Sincerely,



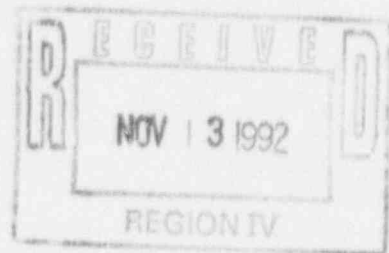
J.C. Deddens  
Senior Vice President  
River Bend Nuclear Group

   
WHO/LAE/DLA/KJG/SLW/JHM/kvm  


Attachment

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

NRC Resident Inspector  
P.O. Box 1051  
St. Francisville, LA 70775



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## ATTACHMENT

NRC Region IV Safeguards personnel requested in Inspection Report (IR) 92-31 that Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) investigate the circumstances surrounding a self screening contractor incident to determine root cause. The results are summarized as follows.

In April, 1992, GSU discovered that the Dowell Schlumberger, Inc. (DSI) site manager had certified DSI personnel for unescorted access without proper psychological evaluation. Until about April 7, 1992 DSI had been certifying their employees for unescorted access to River Bend Station (RBS) under the previous access authorization procedure PSP-4-200, Rev. 4. Under Revision 4 of the procedure, psychological evaluations would not be required since Revision 4 allowed personnel with three years service to be "grandfathered" into the program. GSU had advised DSI in early February, 1992, of the new access authorization procedural requirements as an attachment to the new GSU/DSI contract. However, the administrative (on-site) project manager who had authority to certify the contractor personnel as having received the proper screening requirements was not cognizant of the change. Personnel were certified as acceptable up to as late as April 6, 1992, when the last personnel were improperly granted unescorted access to River Bend Station under Revision 4 of the procedure. On or about April 7, the on-site project manager of DSI returned from a hospital stay and convalescing period to learn of the new Procedure PSP-4-200, Revision 5, and, at that time discontinued certification of contract employees under provisions of Revision 4, and began to use Revision 5 of the procedure.

In an effort to verify the project manager's sequence of events, QA personnel interviewed several people, reviewed several documents including hospital records, telephone records, protected area access records, and other documents. QA was unable to prove any willful intent to disregard RBS procedures, NRC rules or regulations.

The root cause is that, due to the project manager's extended absence, he did not know of the new procedure changes even though he should have known. The project manager's illness that caused him to be away from his desk is considered a contributing factor in his not knowing of the changes. The following referenced documents give additional details of the investigation and are available for further review by the NRC on request.

- REFERENCES:
1. Condition Report 92-0391 dated 5/28/92
  2. Telogs Licensing/NRC dated 10/5/92 (RBCs 42772 & 42773)
  3. PSP-4-200, Rev. 4, "Access Program (Access Suitability)" dated 6/29/90
  4. PSP-4-200, Rev. 5, "Personnel Security Program (Access Authorization)" dated 12/12/91
  5. IR 92-31 dated 10/13/92 (RBC-42831)
  6. QA Memo to Licensing from C.G. Sprangers dated 10/16/92 (SCRB-19189)
  7. GSU Quality Assurance Finding Report 92-05-A-0323-01