

50-458

The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senator
961 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

MAY 21 1985

Dear Senator Bentsen:

This letter is in response to an inquiry to your office by Mr. Paul W. Murrill, Chairman of Gulf States Utilities, concerning the licensing of the River Bend Station, a nuclear plant in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The NRC staff is now in the final stages of reviewing the application by Gulf States Utilities for an operating license for the River Bend Station.

Senior officials from Gulf States Utilities and the NRC staff met on March 26, 1985 to review progress on the River Bend Station application. The Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and senior staff also met with Gulf States Utilities at the River Bend Site on May 13 and 14, 1985 to assess the plant's readiness for an operating license. While a number of key issues remain to be resolved on the River Bend Station, the NRC staff is giving the appropriate priority to the applicant's request for a timely decision on issuance of an operating license.

The requisite staff resources to complete review of key licensing issues as well as required onsite inspections have been made available to issue an operating license for the River Bend Station just as soon as the plant's construction status and operational readiness warrants its issuance.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

*Previously concurred:

AS for

*LB#2/DL/PM
SStern:lb
05/03/85

*LB#2/DL/BC
ASchwencer
05/03/85

*OELD
LDewey
05/06/85

*AD/L/DL
TMNovak
05/09/85

FM for

*D/DL
HThompson
05/09/85

DEP/DIR/NRR
DEisenhut
05/13/85

D/NRR

* HRDenton
05/15/85

EDO

WDircks

05/17/85

OCA

05/20/85

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Member, United States Senate
961 Federal Building
Austin, Texas 78701

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The Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bentsen:

This letter is in response to an inquiry to your office by Mr. Paul W. Murrill, chairman of Gulf States Utilities, concerning the licensing of the River Bend Station nuclear plant in St. Francisville Parrish, Louisiana.

The nuclear power plant licensing is a multiyear process involving a thorough review of the applicants proposed design and operation of their power plant. Since the beginning of this fiscal year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued nine initial operating licenses and four full power licenses for power plants.

Commission staff is now in the final stages of reviewing the application of Gulf States Utilities for an initial license for the River Bend Station.

While several key issues remain to be resolved, on River Bend, the Commission will attempt to accommodate the applicant's request for a decision on an initial license by June, 1985. To meet this tight schedule, without slipping licensing action on other nuclear power plants, the Commission has compressed some procedural steps in the review process as well as placed the staff on overtime.

Sincerely,

H. R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

AS/PM
LB#27/DL/PM
SStern:1b
05/07/85

AS
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5/ /85

DEP/DIR/NRR
DEisenhut
5/ /85

OCA

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Green Ticket #000552

Docket File* (50-458/459)

NRC PDR*

Local PDR*

PRC System*

NSIC*

EDO Control No. 000552

EDO Reading File

WDircks

DEisenhut/HDenton

SStern

EHylton

LB#2 Reading

MJambbour/HThompson

Dewey, OELD

PO'Brien/TMNovak

KBowman, P-428, (#000552)

Secy (85-295)

OCA

RMartin

JTaylor

GCunningham

*with incoming



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

(3.)
Rec'd AD/C 4/22

FROM:

SEN. LLOYD BENTSEN

DUE: 05/03/85

EDO CONTROL: 000552
DOC DT: 04/03/85
FINAL REPLY:

TO:

KAMMERER

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

** GREEN **

SECY NO: 85-295

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LTR FROM PAUL W. MURRILL, GULF STATES
UTILITIES RE LICENSE FOR RIVER BEND

RMARTIN
TAYLOR
GCUNNINGHAM

DATE: 04/18/85

ASSIGNED TO: NRR

CONTACT: DENTON

SPECI/L INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

REPLY TO AUSTIN, TEXAS OFFICE.

NRR rec'd 4/19/85: ACTION: 4/19/85
(HS) ↓ H Thompson ✓

Assign to Nodal

cys: PPAS

H Denton

Schwengel

5/5/85
KB

Rec'd DL 4/22