

MAY 21 1985

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

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

EDO

OCA

* HRDenton
05/15/85

WDircks

05/17/85 05/ /85

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PDR ADOCK 05000458
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Green Ticket #000552

Docket File* (50-458/459)

NRC PDR*

Local PDR*

PRC System*

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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