GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775

AREA CODE 504 635-6094 346-8651

September 24, 1985
RBG- 22,146
File Nos. G9.5

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

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

Gulf States Utilities (GSU) hereby files an application for an amendment to the River Bend Station Unit 1 Technical Specifications, Appendix A to Facility Operating License NPF-40, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90. Enclosure 1 contains the information for Staff review of this request. Enclosure 2 provides the requested revisions to the River Bend Station Technical Specifications. As discussed in Enclosure 1, these revisions to the Technical Specifications are required to allow River Bend Station to achieve the startup schedule and therefore represent emergency circumstances as discussed in 10 CFR 50.91.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 170.12, GSU has enclosed a check in the amount of one-hundred and fifty dollars ($150.00) for the license amendment application fee. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(b)(1), the State of Louisiana, Department of Environmental Quality - Nuclear Energy Division has been notified of this amendment request. Additionally the Regional Administrator of Region IV and the Senior Resident Inspector have been provided copies of this application. Your prompt attention to this application is appreciated.

Sincerely,

W. J. Cahill, Jr.
Senior Vice President
River Bend Nuclear Group

Enclosures

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ENCLOSURE 1

I. Safety Evaluation and No Significant Hazards Determination

Technical Specification 4.8.1.1.2(f)(3)

The technical specification currently requires an 18-month surveillance of the high pressure core spray (HPCS) diesel generator (1C) to demonstrate its ability to reject a full load of 2500-2600 kw without tripping and not exceeding a transient generator voltage of 4784 volts during and following the load rejection. The 4784 volts is 115 percent of the rated steady state voltage of 4160 volts. This change request is to revise the surveillance test to verify that the transient generator voltage shall not exceed 5400 volts (approximately 130 percent of the rated steady state voltage).

Safety Evaluation

The River Bend Station HPCS electrical system is designed for a maximum transient voltage overshoot following a full load rejection of 5824 volts. This is 140 percent of rated steady state voltage (4160 volts). In order to perform this surveillance test, the main output breaker of the HPCS diesel generator is opened. Therefore, only the electrical wiring and components on the HPCS diesel generator side of the main output breaker are subjected to the transient voltage. All of this electrical wiring and components have been designed to withstand 140 percent of rated steady state voltage without any degradation.

The voltage regulator has been set to provide optimum performance during starting, loading and load rejection transients. This optimization results in stable starting and loading transients and the voltage overshoot in excess of that currently allowed but less than the design allowable.

This change request will provide the necessary operational flexibility in surveillance testing while providing an adequate safety margin to the design voltage limit while not affecting the reliability of the system. Enclosure 3 provides full load rejection test data.

No Significant Hazards Evaluation

The proposed amendment to the technical specifications would not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated because there is no change in the design or performance of plant systems or components from those evaluated in the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR). The proposed revision is consistent with the accident analyses described in the FSAR.

Since the proposed amendment does not change any previously reviewed and approved description or analysis described in the FSAR, the proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident, nor does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

II. Revised Technical Specifications

The requested revision is provided as Enclosure 2.

III. Interim Compensatory Measures

River Bend Station currently meets the requirements of Technical Specifications applicable prior to achieving initial criticality. Therefore, no interim compensatory measures are required.

IV. Bases for Emergency Circumstances

The River Bend Station Technical Specification surveillance requirement 4.8.1.1.2.f.3 as provided in Appendix A to the River Bend Station Unit 1 Facility Operating License NFP-40, is consistent with the Final Safety Analysis Report and HPCS Diesel Generator design. The Technical Specification was accepted by GSU based on expected performance.

The HPCS diesel generator is required to be operable for initial criticality (Operational Mode 2) and thus must satisfy this surveillance requirement. Initial criticality is currently scheduled for October 3, 1985.

However, the evaluation of recent baseline testing for the HPCS diesel generator (performed on September 15, 1985) and optimization setting of the voltage regulator has shown that the Technical Specification Surveillance Requirement 4.8.1.1.2.f.3, which requires that the HPCS diesel generator not exceed 115 percent of rated steady state voltage during the load rejection test, is not achievable and requires immediate revision to prevent delay of the River Bend Station startup schedule.

V. Schedule for Attaining Compliance

As indicated in Item III above, River Bend Station is currently in compliance with the applicable Technical Specifications.

VI. Notification of State Personnel

A copy of this amendment application is being provided to the State of Louisiana, Department of Environmental Quality - Nuclear Energy Division. The State has been verbally notified of this request.

VII. Environmental Impact Appraisal

The conduct of the surveillance in either its original or amended form (requested herein) does not result in an environmental impact. Therefore the approval of this amendment does not result in a significant environmental impact nor does it change any previous environmental impact statements for River Bend Station.