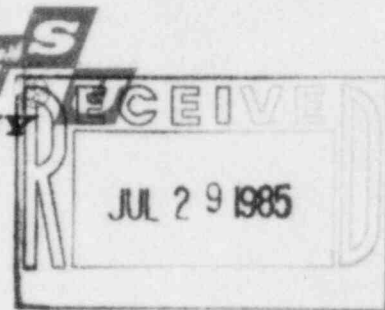


**GULF STATES UTILITIES COMPANY**

RIVER BEND STATION POST OFFICE BOX 220 ST. FRANCISVILLE, LOUISIANA 70775  
AREA CODE 504 635-6094 346-8651



July 22, 1985  
RBG- 21662  
File Code: G9.5, G9.25.1.1

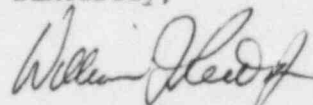
Mr. Robert D. Martin, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, Texas 76011

Dear Mr. Martin:

River Bend Station - Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-458  
Final Report/DR-301

Only July 19, 1985, GSU notified Region IV by telephone that it had determined DR-301 concerning modified torque switch limiter plate settings on Limitorque operators furnished by Velan Engineering Ltd. to be reportable under 10CFR50.55(e). The attachment to this letter is GSU's final 30-day written report pursuant to 10CFR50.55(e)(3) with regard to this deficiency.

Sincerely,

*for*   
J. E. Booker  
Manager-Engineering,  
Nuclear Fuels & Licensing  
River Bend Nuclear Group

*JJD*  
JEB/PJD/amg

cc: Director of Inspection & Enforcement  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

NRC Resident Inspector-Site

INPO

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ATTACHMENT

July 22, 1985  
RBC- 21662

DR-301/MODIFIED TORQUE SWITCH  
LIMITER PLATE SETTINGS

Background and Description of the Problem

The deficiency concerns modified torque switch limiter plate settings on Limitorque operators furnished by Velan Engineering Ltd. (Velan). During preoperational testing of motor-operated valves by Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU), startup and test personnel discovered that the torque switch limiter plate had been modified on some operators and that in two instances torque switch settings exceeded the maximum allowable value established by the motor operator manufacturer, Limitorque Corporation. This deficiency was recorded on Nonconformance and Disposition Report (N&D) No. 10,860. Further investigation into this matter resulted in the initiation of N&D Nos. 11,679 and 12,073.

N&D No. 10,860 was written against eight valves. All eight valves had torque switch limiter plates that had been filed down, thus allowing the torque switch setting to exceed the maximum allowable setting, which is marked on the calibration sticker in the torque switch box. The valve vendor, Velan, was contacted in order to determine why the limiter plates had been modified. Velan responded that it had received authorization from Limitorque to modify the limiter plates during shop testing of the valves at its Williston, Vermont plant. Although Velan modified the limiter plates of all eight valves, Velan did not replace the existing calibration stickers with new stickers indicating the higher maximum allowable setting. Velan forwarded new calibration stickers to the site, and the torque switch settings in the field were compared with the new stickers. In addition, GSU has ordered new limiter plates to replace the plates that had been filed down. Only 1SWP\*MOV4B and 1SWP\*MOV507B were found to have torque switch settings higher than the maximum allowed on the new calibration stickers, and these switches were immediately reset. The motors and valve stems of both valves were inspected and showed no evidence of damage or degradation due to the higher torque switch setting. Subsequent tests with the correct torque switch settings were satisfactory both mechanically and electrically.

In the process of resolving N&D No. 10,860, N&D No. 11,679 was written against three valves that were also discovered to have limiter plates that had been modified.

As a result of the problems discovered in the above N&Ds, the Field conducted a verification of the torque switch settings for all Category I motor-operated valves procured from Velan. This verification was conducted by rechecking the torque switch settings in the field for every valve and then comparing these readings with the calibration stickers and the Velan Quality Assurance Certificates that show the torque switch settings used during the shop hydrotest. This verification was performed to identify any inconsistencies that exist in the documentation that records the torque switch settings. This verification effort resulted in N&D No. 12,073 being written against 14 valves. However, the field settings for all the 14 valves were all within the lower original valve.

The basic underlying problem which precipitated the deficiencies identified in the above N&Ds involved Velan's failure to install revised calibration stickers before the valves were shipped to the site. In all of the above cases, Velan received proper authorization from Limitorque to modify the limiter plates in Velan's shop. However, this is not a customary practice. Normally, Limitorque sends Velan a new limiter plate and calibration sticker, but valve delivery requirements did not permit this delay.

Also, with regard to the torque switch settings in 1SWP\*MOV4B and 1SWP\*MOV507B (which were set higher than the revised maximum allowed on the calibration sticker), it is felt that modification made by Velan were responsible for the problems observed.

#### Safety Implication

For those valves identified in N&D No. 10,860 there is a safety implication due to 1SWP\*MOV4B and 1SWP\*MOV507B having field as-found torque switch settings higher than the maximum allowable value. If this deficiency had remained uncorrected, it can be conservatively concluded that the required operation of these valves would have been impaired. Thus, the safe operations of the plant could have been adversely affected by this condition.

#### Corrective Action

As discussed above, immediate corrective action consisted of obtaining and installing new calibration stickers, revising affected quality assurance documentation, ordering new limiter plates, and resetting the torque switches for 1SWP\*MOV4B and 1SWP\*MOV507B. These torque switches were reset prior to the containment integrated leak rate test. In addition to these steps, the following additional corrective actions were taken to ensure that the torque switch settings on all the Velan-supplied Category I motor-operated valves (MOVs) are satisfactory:

1. The field reverified the torque switch settings for all 191 Velan-supplied Category I MOVs. All corrective actions are discussed above.
2. SWEC Procurement Quality Assurance conducted a 100-percent verification of Velan's documentation certificates and shop test logs to ensure that the recorded torque switch settings on both documents are in agreement.