CERTIFIED
9/29/85

ACRS-2352
PDR/LPDR
102885

DATE ISSUED: 9/19/85

ACRS MEETING MINUTE ON THE RIVER BEND SUBCOMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 11, 1985
WASHINGTON, DC

Purpose: The ACRS Subcommittee on River Bend met on September 11, 1985 at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC. The purpose of this meeting was to continue the review of the request of Gulf States Utilities Company (GSU) for a license to operate the River Bend Station, Unit 1. The ACRS had last reported on this subject on July 17, 1984. The GSU request was referred to the ACRS for consideration at the conclusion of the Subcommittee meeting. A letter approving full power operation for River Bend Unit 1 was written at the September 12-14, 1985 ACRS meeting. On September 11, the Subcommittee heard presentations from the NRC Staff (NRR and Region IV) and the Applicant (Gulf States Utilities). The meeting begin at 3:45 pm and was adjourned at approximately 10:00 pm and was held entirely in open session. The principle attendees were as follows:

D. Okrent, Subcommittee Chairman
J. C. Mark, Member
J. Ebersole, Member
C. Wylie, Member
R. Savio, ACRS Staff
J. Shepherd, ACRS Consultant

W. Butler, NRC Staff
S. Stern, NRC Staff
W. Houston, NRC Staff
J. Jaudon, Region IV Staff
G. Mazetis, NRR Staff
A. Notafrancesco, NRR Staff
F. Eltawila, NRR Staff
J. Rosenthal, NRR Staff
F. Rosa, NRR Staff
K. Parczewski, NRR Staff
C. Berlinger, NRR Staff
J. Ridgely, NRR Staff

W. Reed, GSU
J. Booker, GSU
J. Deddins, GSU
M. Morris, GSU
E. Zoch, GSU
D. Reynerson, GSU
M. Sankovick, GSU

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By

8511010421 850919
PDR ACRS
2352 PDR

Highlights:

1. The NRC Project Manager on River Bend summarized the status of the River Bend review. A low power license was issued on August 29, 1985 and the NRC Staff is currently working toward the resolution of the issues relating to the issuance of a full power license. The Applicant, by his current schedule, estimates that the plant will be ready to exceed 5% power by October 11, 1985 and will have completed all tests and will begin commercial operation by February 1, 1986. The NRC Staff indicated that the principle review issues were the certification of the TDI diesel generators, matters related to the qualification of certain components of the RPS, and the resolution of the hydrogen control issues.

2. The issuance of the low power license had been delayed pending the completion of a NRC investigation into drug use by GSU River Bend employees. Certain GSU employees were alleged to have been involved in the use of drugs. GSU, at the request of the NRC, reviewed the work performed by 12 individuals, including 6 field Quality Control Inspectors, and did not find any reason to be concerned as to the quality of the work performed by these individuals. NRR believes that they have enough information to conclude that the safe operation of the plant has not been affected.

3. Region IV reported on the plant readiness for full power operation. SALP ratings have been high and no generically weak areas have been discovered. GSU management has been found to be responsive in resolving potential problem areas. Staffing is essentially complete and Region IV has concluded that the operating staff is experienced in the operation of BWR plants.

4. The General Electric emergency procedures on containment venting during beyond design basis accidents are described in the General Electric topical report NEDO-24934. Plant specific implementation of these emergency procedures are being reviewed by the NRC for individual plants. The presently proposed procedure for River Bend specifics an initial venting through a 3" filtered line at a containment pressure of 20 psig (design pressure for the containment is 15 psig) with venting through the 36" purge line if the containment pressure reaches 45 psig. Venting through the purge line is likely to result in the rupture of the purge line ducting in the auxiliary building and the subjecting of auxiliary building equipment to a wet steam environment. The Subcommittee raised questions as to the ability of auxiliary building equipment to survive this environment. It was noted the some of this equipment was needed to protect the core. GSU will examine this issue further.

5. The Hydrogen Control Rule for BWR-Mark III and ice condenser plants was made effective on February 25, 1985. GSU has submitted this schedule for meeting the requirements of the rule (See Attachment A) and has paced their schedule to the progress of the BWR Hydrogen Control Owners Group (HCOG) experimental work. A hydrogen control system (igniters) has been installed and a preliminary analysis for containment integrity and equipment survivability has been provided. The NRC Staff has evaluated this submittal in the draft SSER No. 4. The NRC Staff has concluded that the preliminary analysis demonstrates that the pressure capacity of the containment is not exceeded during a hydrogen burn and that the survivability of some equipment items has not yet been demonstrated. Information from the HCOG 1/4 scale test will be used in the resolution of this issue. The Subcommittee noted that the CLASIX-3 was used in the analysis and that hydrogen burn experiments have produced different burn mechanisms than what is modeled in the CLASIX-3 methodology. It was also noted that the River Bend analysis considered a narrow

range of accident scenarios and did not consider a range of model parameters which covered the uncertainty in the interpretation of the experimental results.

6. The severe accident performance of the River Bend containment was discussed. It was noted that containment behavior would be evaluated within the Severe Accidents Policy process. The River Bend containment differs in significant ways from the Grand Gulf and GESSAR-II containments. This would need to be carefully evaluated within this process.

7. GSU has performed a limited PRA in which the Grand Gulf PRA was used. The differences between the River Bend and Grand Gulf plants were evaluated and the Grand Gulf fault tree modified accordingly. The River Bend PRA has not yet been submitted to the NRC. The seismic margins for some typical DHR equipment and AC and DC equipment power supplies were reviewed as per the ACRS recommendation. Margins above the SSE were found to be substantial for the equipment reviewed. Some of the results are displayed on pages 1 and 2 of Attachment B.

8. The feasibility of developing systems which have a UPPS-type function on the River Bend plant was discussed. The plant has the capability of taking a backup core water supply from the fire mains and, with some modifications, to use mobile water sources such as fire trucks. It was noted that the fire main water supply was engine driven. The SRVs and purge valves do not have the capability for being operated only by compressed air supplies and are dependent on electrical power. GSU is further considering system modifications.

****

<u>NOTE</u>: Additional meeting details can be obtained from a transcript of this meeting available in the NRC Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., or can be purchased from Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd., 1625 I Street, NW, Suite 921, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 293-3950.

ATTACHMENT A