Gulf States Utilities Plans
Second Nuclear Power Plant

Gulf States Utilities Company has taken another step toward better service with the announcement of its second nuclear-fueled electric generating facility, a plant that will directly affect the people and the industry of Acadiana.

This second plant, as yet unnamed, will be located in North Newton County, Texas, near the Toledo Bend Reservoir. Like River Bend Station GSU's planned nuclear plant near St. Francisville, the Texas plant will be connected to the 500,000 volt extra-high voltage transmission line which loops through South Louisiana, and will also be inter-connected to the six existing fossil-fueled power plants on the GSU system. In the two-year span of 1978-1980, River Bend and the Texas facility are expected to add almost 2,000,000 kilowatts to Gulf States' generating capability, with another 2,000,000 kilowatts in the following two years.

More Industry

This added energy means much to Acadiana. It means that more industry will be enticed to the area, and that plenty of clean, reliable electric power will be at the fingertips of an expanding population in an area whose growth parallels the demand for electric power. Most of all though, it means that in spite of a critical fuel shortage of gas and oil, nuclear power will be plentiful.

J.W. Lamm, superintendent of Gulf States' Lafayette District, envisions the nuclear era as "the path toward plenty of safe, clean, reliable electric energy." That's important to Gulf States, just as is the environmental and ecological balance of our surroundings.

Logical Solution

GSU explains its entry into the field of nuclear generation as follows: nuclear power is the logical solution to the energy crisis. The dwindling supplies of natural gas are increasing its cost. Most oil must be imported from abroad, and the price is higher than gas. As an alternative, nuclear fuel offers the best, most efficient and economical source of energy at the present time.

With this in mind, GSU has entered nuclear generation boldly, but with careful planning. Such priorities as ecology and the environment have been, and will continue to be, of major concern. Gulf States is conducting ecological studies at the River Bend site in Louisiana to determine the impact of the plant on the locale, and the same will be done at the Texas facility. These projects are not only the concern of Gulf States but to the government as well, and the Atomic Energy Commission is very strict in its requirements for obtaining a license to even begin construction of a nuclear plant.

Project 80

Another major project of GSU in the Lafayette area is "Project 80." This is a comprehensive public information program designed to keep everyone in the GSU system informed about the company's economic situation, environmental program and nuclear plans.

The GSU economic, environmental and nuclear story has already been presented to many people in the Lafayette District. Earl Breussard and Miss Margaret Andries, operating out of the Lafayette office, have spoken before many civic and school groups throughout the Lafayette area. Gulf States feels that the best way to overcome misunderstanding and concern over having a nuclear plant located nearby, is to inform the public about nuclear power, and above all, to answer questions, honestly and completely, about any facet of the operation of a nuclear-fueled power plant.

"Gulf States," says Lamm, "is aware of its obligations to both the customer and to the communities we serve. Our objective is to provide adequate electric energy for the continued growth and prosperity of this area."

Nuclear Generator - Gulf States Utilities customers in Southwestern Louisiana may well be receiving their electric power from GSU's Texas nuclear generating plant near Toledo Bend Reservoir. The plant, as yet unnamed, is planned to go into commercial operation in 1980, and will initially have a generating capability in excess of 900,000 kilowatts.