



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

August 27, 2003

Paul D. Hinnenkamp
Vice President - Operations
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

**SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - RIVER BEND
STATION**

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

On August 6, 2003, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of River Bend Station. The midcycle review for River Bend Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 through December 31, 2003. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). However, the safety significance of the improper securing of a condensate demineralizer bypass valve that resulted in a loss of feedwater flow following a reactor scram is still under review utilizing the Significance Determination Process. We currently plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2004, unless the safety significance of the improper securing of the condensate valve is determined to be greater than very low, in which case our actions will be as specified in NRC's Action Matrix.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's

document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817-860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David N. Graves, Chief
Project Branch B
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
Senior Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

Vice President
Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

General Manager
Plant Operations
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Director - Nuclear Safety
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
P.O. Box 651
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esq.
Winston & Strawn
1401 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Manager - Licensing
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub
Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9005

H. Anne Plettinger
3456 Villa Rose Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

President
West Feliciana Parish Police Jury
P.O. Box 1921
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Michael E. Henry, State Liaison Officer
Department of Environmental Quality
Permits Division
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

Brian Almon
Public Utility Commission
William B. Travis Building
P.O. Box 13326
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-3326

Jimmy Bello, President
Pointe Coupe Parish Police Jury
P.O. Box 290
New Roads, Louisiana 70760

James Hunt, President
East Feliciana Parish Police Jury
P.O. Box 427
Clinton, Louisiana 70722

Ted Denstel, Parish President
West Baton Rouge Parish Counsel
P.O. Box 757
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767

Burt Babers, President
West Feliciana Parish Police Jury
P.O. Box 1921
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Bobby Simpson, Mayor-President
Office of the Mayor-President
East Baton Rouge Parish
P.O. Box 1471
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Ron Castleman, Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region VI, Federal Center
800 North Loop 288
Denton, Texas 76201-3698

Jim Brewer
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the Mayor/President
East Baton Rouge Parish
P.O. Box 1471
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Joanne Moreau, Director
Dept. of Emergency Management
East Baton Rouge Parish
P.O. Box 1471
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Charles LeBlanc, Director
Dept. of Emergency Management
West Baton Rouge Parish
P.O. Box 757
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767

Don Ewing, Director
Dept. of Emergency Management
Pointe Coupee Parish
P.O. Box 248
New Roads, Louisiana 70760

Col. Michael L. Brown, Assistant Director
Military Department
Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness
P.O. Box 44217
7667 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Jesse Means, Director
Dept. of Emergency Management
West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 1927
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

T. W. Prewitt, Director
Dept. of Emergency Management
East Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 640
Jackson, Louisiana 70748

The Honorable William D'Aquila
Mayor, Town of St. Francisville
P.O. Box 400
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

River Bend
Inspection / Activity Plan
08/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	RP-TM - RAD SAFETY TEAM		5			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
	OB-PIR - RB PIR INSPECTION		5			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		10/27/2003	11/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION		3			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		02/09/2004	02/13/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		02/23/2004	02/27/2004	Baseline Inspections
	ALARA1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/09/2004	02/13/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - MAINTENANCE EFFECTIVENESS		1			
1	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		03/15/2004	03/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OB-RQ - REQUALIFICATION EXAM		3			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		04/05/2004	04/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
	2004022 - SAFETY SYS. DESIGN AND PERF. CAPABILITY		5			
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		05/03/2004	05/07/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		05/17/2004	05/21/2004	Baseline Inspections
	2004023 - CHANGES, TESTS, AND EXPERIMENTS		1			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		05/17/2004	05/21/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-EP2 - EP EXERCISE		3			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		06/07/2004	06/11/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/07/2004	06/11/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		06/07/2004	06/11/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OB - OB - INITIAL EXAMINATION		4			
1	X02267	RIVER BEND (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		08/30/2004	09/03/2004	Not Applicable
1	X02267	RIVER BEND (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Not Applicable
	2004038 - HX & HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE TESTING		1			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		09/13/2004	09/17/2004	Baseline Inspections