



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

September 30, 2003

Jeff S. Forbes, Vice President,
Operations - Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

SUBJECT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DEFICIENCY IDENTIFIED
DURING THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2003, EXERCISE

Dear Mr. Forbes:

Enclosed is a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region VI's letter to the State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, dated September 24, 2003. This letter discusses a deficiency identified during evaluation of the September 17, 2003, emergency preparedness exercise at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Generating Station. FEMA defines a deficiency as, "an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant." Specifically, the deficiency is that Tensas Parish, Louisiana, is unable to ensure prompt notification to members of the public using the Emergency Alert System because radio station KNOE cannot immediately broadcast emergency information between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate FEMA's official notification of the deficiency in accordance with the NRC-FEMA Memorandum of Understanding. No response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required.

The NRC encourages Grand Gulf Nuclear Station to work with the appropriate off-site governmental agencies to ensure a timely resolution of this issue. The NRC will continue to monitor the status of this issue. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the NRC and FEMA Region VI will assess the progress made towards resolution of this issue by approximately December 1, 2003, and will decide at that time if additional measures are necessary.

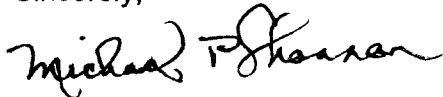
If this issue is not resolved by January 24, 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency may withdraw the finding of reasonable assurance according to the requirements of 44 CFR 350.13(a). At that time the NRC would take appropriate action according to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(s)(2) and 50.54(s)(3).

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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If you have any further questions, please contact Ryan E. Lantz at (817) 860-8158, or Paul J. Elkmann at (817) 276-6539.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Shannon, Acting Chief
Plant Support Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-416

License: NPF-29

Attachment:

FEMA Region VI Letter to Louisiana Department of
Environmental Quality, dated September 24, 2003

Senior Vice President
and Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
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Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
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Jackson, MS 39205

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Jay Barkley, Chief
Energy & Transportation Branch
Environmental Compliance and
Enforcement Division
Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289-0385

President, District 1
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 339
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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General Manager
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

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

Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
Jackson, MS 39201

Mike Moore, Attorney General
Frank Spencer, Asst. Attorney General
State of MS
P.O. Box 22947
Jackson, MS 39225

Dr. Brian W. Amy
State Health Officer
State Board of Health
P.O. Box 1700
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Robert W. Goff, Program Director
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Mississippi Dept. of Health
P.O. Box 1700
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Vice President
Operations Support
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Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Technological Services Branch
Chief
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Rd.
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Technological Services Branch
Chief,
FEMA Region VI
Federal Regional Center
800 North Loop 288
Denton, Texas 76201-3698

ATTACHMENT



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region VI
Federal Regional Center
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3606

September 24, 2003

Mr. N. Chris Roberie, Administrator
Surveillance Division
Office of Environmental Compliance
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

Dear Mr. Roberie:

This letter officially informs you of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) identification of a Deficiency which occurred during the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise conducted on September 17, 2003. This issue was discussed during the post exercise participants' briefing on September 18, 2003.

The Deficiency is being assessed against the Tensas Parish EOC under Evaluation Area Criterion 5.a.1, Activation of the Prompt Alert and Notification System.

During the exercise performed on September 17, 2003, the prompt alerting of the public was unsuccessfully demonstrated. Radio Station KNOE-FM Monroe, LA, is the primary warning point for Louisiana residents in the EPZ. The station is equipped with a dedicated phone and fax from the Tensas Parish EOC, where protective actions decisions are made. The FM station is located in a separate area of a large broadcast complex, and the FM station is unmanned and automated from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

KNOE is unsatisfactory as currently configured for a 24-hour warning point because the dedicated phone and fax ring only in the FM studio, which is not staffed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Tensas Parish residents are left in an information void during those hours when the sirens can be activated with no emergency instructions broadcast.

The station's dedicated phone lines and fax should be redundant within the AM radio and TV stations where there are 24-hour duty personnel. A radio override system could be installed so that the Tensas Parish Emergency Management Director could control the broadcast from the EOC.

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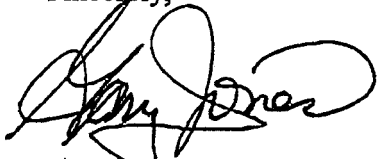
Chris Roberie
September 24, 2003
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We have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with FEMA Headquarters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. FEMA defines a Deficiency as "...an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant."

Because of the potential impact on the public health and safety, this situation should be corrected within 120 days of the exercise date through appropriate remedial actions. Please coordinate with this office the date and time of the pertinent remedial actions and identity of the State, Parish or other participants within 10 days from the date of this letter.

Your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Hammond, Chair, Regional Assistance Committee, FEMA Region VI, at 940-898-5199.

Sincerely,



Gary E. Jones
Acting Regional Director

cc: Vanessa Quinn, FEMA HQ
William A. Maier, NRC Region IV
Rick Foster, Tensas Parish OEP

Electronic distribution by RIV w/o enclosure:

Regional Administrator (**BSM1**)DRP Director (**ATH**)DRS Director (**DDC**)Senior Resident Inspector (**TLH4**)Branch Chief, DRP/A (**WDJ**)Senior Project Engineer, DRP/A (**TRF**)Staff Chief, DRP/TSS (**PHH**)RITS Coordinator (**NBH**)Regional State Liaison Officer (**WAM**)NRR/DIPM/EPB/EPHP (**EWB**)NRR/DIPM/EPB/EPHP (**REM2**)

DMB (AO45)

ADAMS: ☒ Yes ☐ No Initials: _____
☒ Publicly Available ☐ Non-Publicly Available ☐ Sensitive ☒ Non-Sensitive

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RIV:PSB	C:PSB			
PJElkmann	MPShannon			
9/24/03	9/ /03			

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T=Telephone

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