



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

August 30, 2006

Paul D. Hinnenkamp
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 US Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: OFFSITE PLANNING DEFICIENCY IDENTIFIED DURING THE AUGUST 16,
2006, EXERCISE

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the US Department of Homeland Security, Chemical and Nuclear Preparedness and Protection Division, Denton Field Office to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality dated August 28, 2006. This letter discusses a deficiency identified during evaluation of the August 16, 2006, emergency preparedness exercise at River Bend Station. The US Department of Homeland Security 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 was related to the broadcast of an emergency alert system message prior to sounding of the emergency alert sirens, which would result in a delay in the public receiving the alert message until that message was repeated.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the US Department of Homeland Security's official notification of the deficiency in accordance with the NRC-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Memorandum of Understanding (the radiological preparedness elements of FEMA having been transferred to the US Department of Homeland Security, Chemical and Nuclear Preparedness and Protection Division). No response to the NRC is required.

The NRC encourages River Bend Station to work with the appropriate offsite 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 the US Department of Homeland Security, Denton Area Field Office will assess the progress made toward resolution of this issue by approximately November 28, 2006, and will decide at that time if additional measures are necessary.

If this issue is not resolved by December 15, 2006, the US Department of Homeland Security 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).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Vincent Gaddy, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
Letter from the US Department of Homeland Security, Denton Area Field Office to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, dated August 28, 2006

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ENCLOSURE

US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CHEMICAL & NUCLEAR PREPAREDNESS AND
PROTECTION DIVISION

LETTER OF DEFICIENCY
DATED AUGUST 28, 2006



**Homeland
Security**

August 28, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Meyers:

This letter officially informs you of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Chemical & Nuclear Preparedness and Protection Division (DHS/CNPPD) identification of a Deficiency which occurred during the River Bend Station Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise conducted on August 16, 2006. This issue was discussed during the post exercise participants briefing on August 17, 2006.

The Deficiency is being assessed against the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness at the Louisiana State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) under Evaluation Area Criterion 5.a.1. Activation of the Prompt Alert and Notification System.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) message should be aired following the sounding of the sirens. The public needs to be alerted and then provided sufficient time to tune into the EAS station in order to listen to the EAS message. During the exercise, the EAS message was transmitted prior to sounding the alert signal. The public tuning into the EAS radio station would have missed the EAS message and would not have had an opportunity to listen to the EAS message until it was retransmitted. The population in the affected area could be delayed in receiving information related to the emergency situation.

The sequence of the sounding of sirens for alerting the public and transmitting the EAS message was not consistent with established guidance. The first siren sounding was done at 1210 and the EAS message was sent at 1208. The State must ensure that procedures are followed to always sound the sirens before the EAS message is transmitted. The requirements pertaining to this evaluation area are found under NUREG-0654, Planning Standards E.5, 7, and G.3.a and 4.c.

Mr. Jeffrey Meyers, Administrator

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August 28, 2006

We have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with DHS Headquarters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. DHS 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 public health and safety, this situation should be corrected within 120 days of the exercise date through appropriate remedial actions. Please provide this office a date and time for demonstration of remedial actions along with the identity of the State, Parish or other participants.

Your reply is expected within 10 days from the date of this letter, and your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact me at 940-898-5199.

Sincerely,



Lisa R. Hammond
RAC Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Vanessa Quinn, DHS/CNPPD HQ
William A. Maier, NRC Region IV