



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

October 11, 1996

EA 96-175

John R. McGaha, Vice President - Operations
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION
(NRC Inspection Report No. 50-458/96-12)

Dear Mr. McGaha:

This is in reference to the predecisional enforcement conference conducted on June 26, 1996, in the NRC's Arlington, Texas office, between the NRC and Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy). The conference was conducted to discuss apparent violations identified during an inspection of Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) issues at Entergy's River Bend Station (RBS) nuclear power plant. The results of the inspection, which was conducted May 6-21, 1996, were described in a report issued on June 12, 1996.

The apparent violations included: 1) not taking actions required by the plant Technical Specifications (TS) to restore the Division II EDG to operability status within the TS allowed outage time of 72 hours; 2) not taking action required, with both the Division I and II EDGs inoperable for approximately 51 hours (although the Division I EDG remained functional); and 3) entering Mode 2 with inoperable equipment, i.e., a drywell pressure transmitter and the Division II EDG. These issues and the circumstances surrounding them were described in detail in the inspection report.

At the conference, Entergy disagreed with apparent violation 1 above, stating that the total TS-allowed time to place the plant in Mode 3, i.e., 84 hours, had not expired and that therefore, the TS were not violated. Entergy did not state any disagreement with the two remaining apparent violations, but noted, concerning the second apparent violation in the proceeding paragraph, that: 1) the functionality of the Division I EDG was always maintained; and 2) no reasonable prior opportunity to identify the degradation of the Division II EDG field flash relay existed. With respect to the third apparent violation in the proceeding paragraph, Entergy maintained that the operability of the Division II EDG and drywell pressure transmitter were promptly restored once identified. Further, with respect to all three apparent violations, Entergy asserted that the safety significance was minimal and that prompt, broad, and comprehensive corrective actions were taken.

As emphasized at the conference, the apparent violations were subject to further review and revision prior to any enforcement action being taken. In this case, the NRC has reconsidered its position. As to the first apparent violation, we have withdrawn it as NRC agrees with Entergy's position that the

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TS, in this instance, allow a total of 84 hours to place the plant in Mode 3 and that a violation did not occur. As to the other two apparent violations, we have refocused the violations from TS to the root causes as described in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice).

Specifically, the NRC has determined that a violation of procedural valve line-up requirements resulted in the drywell pressure transmitter being inoperable. In addition, because of an inadequate design review of a modification performed on the Division II EDG in May 1994, the EDG was rendered inoperable following generator lockout testing in February 1996. These violations have been classified at Severity Level IV, in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," NUREG-1600, and are described in the enclosed Notice.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter and enclosure, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,


L. J. Callan
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-458

License No. NPF-47

Enclosure: Notice of Violation

cc w/Enclosure: See Next Page

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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cc w/Enclosure:
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cc w/Enclosure: See Next Page

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Handwritten notes above table:
 for Bill Beckner
 per plan amendment
 Dave Wigginton
 for Joe Callan
 per Fax from
 Goss
 Santorum

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10/8/96	10/9/96	10/9/96	10/10/96

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Handwritten notes above table:
 for Bill Beckner per plan concw/ Dave Wigginton
 for Joe Callan per Fax from Gary Santorum

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