



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

SEP 26 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-458/96-24

Dear Mr. McGaha:

An NRC inspection was conducted August 12-23, 1996, at your River Bend Station reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

This inspection was in response to numerous crew and operator deficiencies exhibited in the plant-specific simulator between March and July 1996. The charter of the inspection team included: (1) a determination of whether additional negative operational precursors existed which would substantiate a decline or negative trend in plant operations; and, (2) an assessment of the elements of your systems approach to training, your root-cause determination, and your corrective-action capability.

As a result of the inspection, we concluded that there were no operational safety issues. We detected no further indications of a decline or negative trends in plant operations. Although some weaknesses were identified in your licensed operator requalification training program, we concluded that it was adequate. We will resume normal inspection oversight of your licensed operator requalification training program.

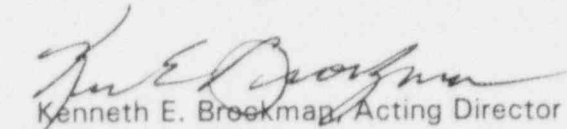
We recognize the substantive efforts you invested in the root-cause analysis and independent assessment related to operator performance. Both were comprehensive and well focused. However, our perception of the root causes differed from yours in a subtle but significant manner. We concluded that the impact of changes in operations and training were not well understood because your framework for assessing change did not function well. The situation was worsened by a weakness in the training evaluation process that failed to recognize that crew behavior was masking individual weaknesses.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

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

Sincerely,


Kenneth E. Brookman, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-458
License No.: NPF-47

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-458/96-24

cc w/enclosure:
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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)

E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/D)
 Project Engineer (DRP/D)
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
 Resident Inspector
 S. Richards, OLB/NRR

Senior Resident Inspector (Grand Gulf)
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 MIS System
 RIV File
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