

**RIVER BEND STATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

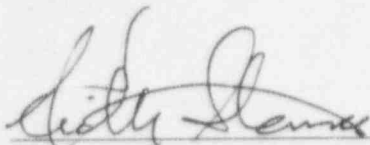
ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

RIVER BEND STATION

**ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT  
(NONRADIOLOGICAL)**

August 29, 1995 - August 28, 1996

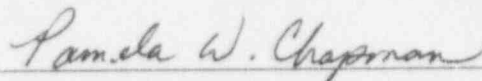
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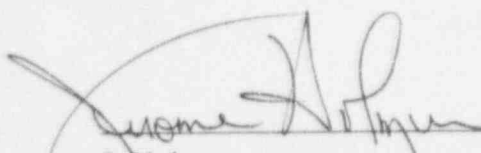
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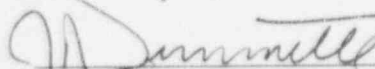
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**RIVER BEND STATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES .....	1
2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ISSUES .....	1
2.1 Aquatic Issues .....	2
2.2 Terrestrial Issues .....	2
2.3 Noise Issues .....	2
3.0 CONSISTENCY REQUIREMENTS .....	2
3.1 Plant Design and Operation .....	2
3.2 Reporting Related to NPDES Permit and State Certification .....	4
3.3 Changes Required for Compliance with Other Environmental Regulations .....	4
4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS .....	5
4.1 Unusual or Important Environmental Events .....	5
4.2 Environmental Monitoring .....	5
4.2.1 Aquatic Monitoring .....	5
4.2.2 Terrestrial Monitoring .....	5
4.2.3 Noise Monitoring .....	5
5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES .....	6
5.1 Review and Audit .....	6
5.2 Records Retention .....	6
5.3 Changes in Environmental Protection Plan .....	6
5.4 Plant Reporting Requirements .....	6
5.4.1 Routine Reports .....	6
5.4.2 Nonroutine Reports .....	7

**RIVER BEND STATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1. Nonroutine Reports to Federal and State Environmental Regulatory Agencies .....	8
Enclosure 1. Photointerpretation Report: A Brief Aerial Photography Analysis of River Bend Station .....	9

# **RIVER BEND STATION**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES**

The Annual Environmental Operating Report for the period of August 29, 1995 (anniversary of license issuance) through August 28, 1996, is submitted in accordance with Subsection 5.4.1 of Appendix B to River Bend Station Facility Operating License Number NPF-47.

River Bend Station (RBS) consists of a 936 MWE General Electric boiling water reactor located on a 3,342 acre site in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, 4.1 km (2.5 MI) southeast of St. Francisville. Waste heat from RBS is dissipated via systems using five mechanical draft cooling towers which draw makeup water from the Mississippi River, 3.3 (air) km (2.0 MI) to the southwest. Blowdown from the normal cooling tower system is discharged to the Mississippi River through a submerged pipe about 200 meters (660 ft) downstream from the makeup water intake.

Appendix B to the RBS operating license is the Environmental Protection Plan (Nonradiological), or EPP, which has the following principal objectives:

1. To verify that the facility is operated in an environmentally acceptable manner, as established in the Final Environmental Statement - Operation Licensing Stage (NUREG-1073, commonly referred to as the FES-OL) and other Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) environmental impact assessments.
2. To coordinate NRC requirements and maintain consistency with other Federal, State, and local requirements for environmental protection.
3. To keep the NRC informed of the environmental effects of facility construction and operation and of actions taken to control these effects.

### **2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ISSUES**

In the FES-OL dated January 1985, the NRC staff considered the environmental impacts associated with the operation of River Bend Station Unit 1. Certain environmental issues were identified which required study or license conditions to resolve environmental concerns and to assure adequate protection of the environment.

## **RIVER BEND STATION**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

#### **2.1    Aquatic Issues**

No specific aquatic issues were identified by the NRC staff in the FES-OL. Environmental concerns which relate to water quality are regulated by way of the facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Louisiana Water Discharge Permit.

#### **2.2    Terrestrial Issues**

Salt drift deposition from the normal cooling towers may cause changes in, or damage to, nearby vegetation on RBS property (FES-OL Section 5.5.1.1). A monitoring program to identify the extent of impacts and the mitigative actions necessary, if any, is specified in EPP Section 4.2.2.

#### **2.3    Noise Issues**

Operation of the normal cooling towers, the service water cooling tower and main station transformers at RBS may increase noise levels at nearby residences (FES-OL Section 5.12). A monitoring program to identify the extent of impacts and the mitigative actions necessary, if any, is specified in EPP Section 4.2.3.

### **3.0    CONSISTENCY REQUIREMENTS**

#### **3.1    Plant Design and Operation**

In accordance with the EPP, RBS personnel prepare and record an environmental evaluation of any proposed change in plant design or operation or performance of any test or experiment which may significantly affect the environment. Such evaluations are not performed on activities which do not affect the environment or are required for compliance with non-NRC environmental regulations. The environmental evaluation process is administered through programs governing design modification and the development/revision of written procedures. Before engaging in additional construction or operational activities which may significantly affect the environment, a determination is made and recorded as to whether any proposed change involves an unreviewed environmental question determination (UEQD). A proposed activity involves a UEQD if it concerns:

- a) a matter which may result in a significant increase in any adverse environmental impact previously evaluated in the FES-OL, environmental impact appraisals, or in any decisions of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board;

## **RIVER BEND STATION ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

b) a significant change in effluent or power levels; or

c) a matter, not previously reviewed and evaluated in the documents specified in (a) above, which may have a significant adverse environmental impact.

If the activity meets any of these criteria it must either not be performed as proposed or a written evaluation must be prepared and submitted for prior NRC approval.

During this reporting period three modifications were completed which were evaluated for their environmental impact under the design modification program referred to above.

In MR 95-0007 an Unreviewed Environmental Question Determination (UEQD) was performed that addressed the installation of the new sanitary Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) facility and the demolition of the existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). The UEQD concluded that the EPP would not be affected by the changes made by MR 95-0007. Therefore, based on results of this SAEE, there is no UEQ nor any adverse degradation in the effectiveness of the EPP.

In MR 95-0035 an UEQD was done to evaluate the environmental impact of the removal of the turbidity instrumentation located at the clarifiers and the addition of pump suction screens and valve reach rods on existing clarifier pumps. The UEQD concluded that there was no significant impact to the environment as a result of the changes made in MR 95-0035. Therefore, based on the results of the UEQD, there is no UEQ or degradation in the effectiveness of the EPP with this change.

In MR 95-0067 the UEQD that was performed to evaluate MR 91-0047 (conversion of service water to a closed loop system) was used to document the evaluation of the environmental impact of the changes made in MR 95-0067. The scope of MR 95-0067 was to document the set point data sheets for the service water cooling (SWC) strainers as required for CR No. 95-0929. The UEQD concluded that there was no significant impact to the environment as a result of the changes made in MR 95-0067 therefore, there is no UEQ or degradation in the effectiveness of the EPP.

The records of these environmental determinations are maintained in the Station Permanent Plant File as part of documentation associated with the modification request program and/or the procedure development system.

## **RIVER BEND STATION ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

### **3.2     Reporting Related to NPDES Permit and State Certification**

Violations of the NPDES and Louisiana Water Discharge permits have been reported to the NRC via copies of the nonroutine reports sent to the other agencies pursuant to permit requirements (see Table 1).

Minor NPDES permit violations are now reported with the monthly NPDES Discharge Monitoring Reports in lieu of verbal and written notifications. Entergy - River Bend Station was chosen by the EPA to participate in a pilot program of reduced oversight. State regulations and the RBS LA wastewater discharge permit continue to require verbal and written follow-up notifications for permit violations.

On January 27, 1992 River Bend submitted to LDEQ a renewal application with modifications for Louisiana Water Discharge Permit No. WP0409. Subsequently, the station has submitted to LDEQ five letters which contain supplemental information and operational change requests. River Bend Station continues to comply with the terms and conditions of the previous permit, per LDEQ guidance, which was to expire on May 28, 1992.

On September 14, 1995 River Bend Station submitted a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal application for NPDES Permit No. LA0042731. River Bend Station continues to also comply with the terms and conditions of the previous permit which was to expire on March 15, 1996. On August 27, 1996 the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) received approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to assume the NPDES. It is expected that the LDEQ will issue a Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit in the near future which will replace the existing state and federal permits. The changes which were requested in the NPDES permit application should be reflected in the new LPDES permit when it is issued.

### **3.3     Changes Required for Compliance with Other Environmental Regulations**

During the period covered by this report the changes in plant design or operation and performance of tests or experiments required to achieve compliance with non-NRC environmental regulations were:

1. Station water discharge permit letters of no objection were issued by LDEQ to allow chemical treatments using a non-oxidizing biocide to control zebra mussel infestations in the station make-up water system.

## RIVER BEND STATION ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996

### 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

#### 4.1 Unusual or Important Environmental Events

During the period covered by this report there were no unusual or important events, causally related to RBS operation, which resulted in significant environmental impacts.

#### 4.2 Environmental Monitoring

4.2.1 Aquatic Monitoring - Water quality monitoring was performed in accordance with the requirements established in the station's NPDES and Louisiana Water Discharge permits. Results were documented in monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports and nonroutine reports (Table 1), as required, submitted to the USEPA and LDEQ.

4.2.2 Terrestrial Monitoring - Subsection 4.2.2 of the EPP requires monitoring by aerial photograph beginning two years prior to cooling tower operation and during the following first and third years of operation. This requirement was completed in 1989 when the "third year" set of stereo color infrared transparencies were monitored. During this reporting period River Bend Station performed terrestrial monitoring with aerial photography. This monitoring was expanded to address a licensing commitment to monitor for and report the existence of new oil and gas wells and pipelines within 2 miles of the plant. No changes in vegetative communities or individual trees, attributable to salt drift impacts, was indicated. No changes in the number or size of wellheads, pipelines or transmission line right-of-ways were identified within 2 miles of RBS. The only changes noted in the photo interpretation was the construction of the new General Services Building and parking lot located just North of the Plant Primary Access Point. The photo interpretation report is provided as Enclosure 1.

4.2.3 Noise Monitoring - The requirement to conduct an environmental noise monitoring program (EPP Subsection 4.2.3) was completed during 1986/87 and the results were included in the second Annual Environmental Operating Report. In general, the acoustic environment in the vicinity of RBS proved to be substantially more complex than anticipated, but neither the magnitude of increases attributable to plant operation nor community reaction exceeded FES-OL predictions.

**RIVER BEND STATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

**5.0     ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

**5.1     Review and Audit**

Entergy has provided for independent review and audit of compliance with the EPP. The main group responsible for audits of EPP-related activities, the RBS Quality Assurance Department, reported directly to the Director - Nuclear Safety during the period covered in this report. All findings identified during the reporting period were satisfactorily resolved and did not indicate a significant deterioration on the activities being audited.

**5.2     Records Retention**

Records and logs relative to environmental aspects of plant operation and audit activities are retained in the RBS Permanent Plant File. These records and logs are available to the NRC on request. Records of modifications to station structures, systems, and components determined to potentially affect the continued protection of the environment will be retained for the life of the plant. Other records, data, and logs relating to the EPP will be retained for five years or, where applicable, in accordance with the requirements of the USEPA and LDEQ.

**5.3     Changes in Environmental Protection Plan**

There were no requests for changes to the EPP during the period covered by this report.

**5.4     Plant Reporting Requirements**

**5.4.1 Routine Reports.** - This Annual Environmental Operating Report was prepared to meet the reporting requirements of EPP Subsection 5.4.1 for the period from August 29, 1995, through August 28, 1996. Summaries and analyses of the results of monitoring programs, including comparisons with related pre-operational studies, operational controls, and previous reports are presented in Section 4.2 above. During the period of this report there were no indications of significant harmful effects or evidence of trends toward irreversible damage to the environment causally related to the operation of River Bend Station.

**RIVER BEND STATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

5.4.2 Nonroutine Reports. - All nonroutine events from August 29, 1995, through August 28, 1996, that were reportable were identified to other federal, state, or local agencies in accordance with their reporting requirements in lieu of requirements of EPP Subsection 5.4.2 (see Table 1).

**RIVER BEND STATION  
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT FOR 1995/1996**

**TABLE 1**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TYPE</b>	<b>RECIPIENT(S)*</b>	<b>DOCUMENT</b>
09-19-95	Letter	LDEQ	RBG-41,981
01-22-96	Letter	LDEQ	RBG-42,374
02-29-96	Letter	LDEQ	RBG-42,595
04-24-96	Letter	LDEQ	RBG-42,849
05-01-96	Letter	LDEQ	RBG-42,878
05-22-96	Letter	LDEQ	RBG-42,940
06-20-96	Letter	LDEQ	RBG-43,037

Agency abbreviations: LDEQ = Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality