



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

APR 11 1997

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION Report 50-458/97-006 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. McGaha:

An NRC inspection was conducted February 2 through March 15, 1997, at your River Bend Station facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection period, your conduct of activities at the River Bend Station facility was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and good radiation protection support. We are concerned, however, about three violations of NRC requirements that were identified.

The first violation is of concern because programmatic controls for ensuring personnel did not work excessive hours were not established and implemented as required by the Technical Specifications. The second violation is of concern because inadequacies and ambiguities in your performance-based local leak rate testing program resulted in safety-related systems being taken out of service unnecessarily during power operation to accomplish testing that, in actuality, was not needed. Your staff should have recognized and corrected this program weakness within a reasonable amount of time after the January 1996 refueling outage, when a first group of potentially missed surveillances was identified. The third violation is of concern because on two occasions unauthorized personnel relocated radiological postings despite specific training to the contrary.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

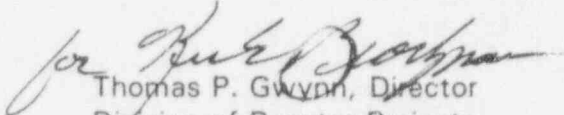
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that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

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

Sincerely,


Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-458/97-006

cc w/enclosures:

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Chief Operating Officer
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Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

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Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
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General Manager
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William H. Spell, Administrator
Louisiana Radiation Protection Division
P.O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2135

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Entergy Operations, Inc.

-5-

E-Mail report to T. Boyce (THB)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
E-Mail report to D. Taylor (DRT)
E-Mail report to R. Correia (RPC)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator
DRP Director
Branch Chief (DRP/D)
Project Engineer (DRP/D)
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
Resident Inspector

Senior Resident Inspector (Grand Gulf)
DRS-PSB
MIS System
RIV File

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