



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

March 3, 1997

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

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE  
(SALP) REPORT 50-458/97-99

Dear Mr. McGaha:

Enclosed for your review is the SALP report for the River Bend Station, for the period of July 30, 1995, through February 1, 1997. A public meeting to discuss this report with you and your staff has been scheduled at the River Bend Training Center on March 18, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. (CST). During this meeting, you are encouraged and expected to candidly comment on our report. Although this meeting is a forum between Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) and the NRC, it will be open to observation by members of the public and other interested parties.

In accordance with NRC's policy, I have reviewed the recommendations of the SALP Board and concur with their ratings and views. All four SALP functional areas at River Bend Station were rated as Category 2, indicating good overall safety performance. Although the numerical ratings for the Operations, Maintenance and Engineering functional areas remained the same as those received for the last SALP period, improvements were noted. However, while the improvements were significant in some instances, superior performance was not achieved. Performance in the Plant Support functional area declined somewhat from its previous superior SALP rating and was considered to be good.

In the Operations area, routine plant activities and minor plant transients were handled well, but configuration management problems persisted and weaknesses were observed with crew performance in the simulator. The excellent material condition of the plant was evidence of the continued success of the maintenance program. Improvements were noted in both the scheduling and conduct of maintenance activities; however, inconsistencies were identified with the implementation of the surveillance and inservice testing programs. The conduct of engineering activities continued to be an area of overall strength for the site. The quality of the system engineering staff was notable, but there was a mix in the quality of engineering products. This was most notable in the preparation of operability evaluations and the support provided to the testing programs.

The decline in the Plant Support functional area was the result of concerns identified with the implementation of the radiological protection and emergency preparedness programs. Instances of personnel entering radiologically controlled areas without proper dosimetry, and problems noted during outages contributed to the decline. In addition, weaknesses



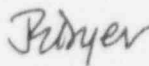
were identified during the annual emergency preparedness program review and the biennial emergency response exercise. The other portions of the plant support functional area, particularly security, remained strong.

River Bend Station continues to focus on improving performance through a process of self-critical identification and correction of problems. The quality assurance audits and self-assessments performed were effective in the identification of issues. Management has continued several initiatives to improve performance, such as the Procedures Upgrade Program, and the results of these efforts are becoming evident. Additionally, you have recognized and are addressing the challenge of continuing human performance errors.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the SALP report will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to discuss them with you. While no written response is required, you may provide written comments within 30 days of the SALP meeting.

Sincerely,



J. E. Dyer  
Acting Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure:  
SALP Report 50-458/97-99

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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 Richard Correia (RPC)  
 E-Mail report to Ronald Frahm, Jr. (RKF)

bcc to DMB (IE40)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

J. E. Dyer, ARA	Resident Inspector
T. P. Gwynn, ADRA	DRS-PSB
A. Howell, Acting DRP Director	MIS System
K. E. Brockman, Acting DRS Director	RIV File
Branch Chief (DRP/D)	Carol Gordon
Project Engineer (DRP/D)	C. A. Hackney, RSLO
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB,	Records Center, INPO
MS: TWFN 9E10)	B. Henderson, PAO
The Chairman (MS:16-G-15)	DRP
Commissioner Rogers (MS:16-G-15)	SRIs at all RIV sites
Commissioner Dicus	DD:DNMS
Commissioner Diaz	
Commissioner McGaffigan	
L. J. Callan, EDO (MS:17-G-21)	
S. J. Collins, Director, NRR	
F. Miraglia, Deputy Director, NRR	
J. Lieberman, OE	
Associate Dir. for Projects, NRR	
Associate Dir. for Insp., and Tech. Assmt, NRR	
SALP Program Manager, NRR/ILPB (2 copies)	
W. Beckner, NRR Project Director (MS: 13-H-3)	
D. Wiggington, NRR Project Manager (MS: 13-H-3)	

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