



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION IV
1600 EAST LEMAR BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4511

March 01, 2023

Robert Franssen, Site Vice President
Entergy Operations, Inc.
5485 U.S. Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR RIVER BEND STATION
REPORT 05000458/2022006

Dear Robert Franssen:

The NRC has completed its end-of-cycle performance assessment of River Bend Station, reviewing performance indicators (PIs), inspection results, and enforcement actions from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. The NRC concluded that overall performance at your facility preserved public health and safety. The baseline inspection program was completed at your facility as defined in Inspection Manual Chapter 2515, "Light-Water Reactor Inspection Program - Operations Phase."

The NRC determined the performance at River Bend Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column, the highest performance category of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix, because all inspection findings had very low safety significance (i.e., Green), and all PIs were within the expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2024. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), the NRC adjusted inspection plans and schedules to safeguard the health and safety of both NRC and licensee staff while still effectively implementing the ROP. While the PHE continues, overall conditions throughout the country support performance of our inspection and oversight activities returning to normal onsite presence by our resident and region-based inspectors and completion of nominal baseline inspection samples. We continue to monitor site-specific conditions and, as discussed in our November 2, 2021, memo, "Implementation of Inspection Programs Following Re-Entry from the Public Health Emergency for the Reactor Safety Program" (ML21295A302), it may be necessary to alter how and when we perform our inspection and oversight activities as we balance the importance of protecting the health and safety of our staff with the need to conduct effective oversight that supports the NRC's critical safety mission.

For inspections requiring extensive coordination with offsite organizations, such as evaluated emergency preparedness exercises, NRC guidance and frequently asked questions for security and emergency preparedness can be found here: <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/covid-19/security-ep/>. Similarly, the NRC has developed guidance if force-on-force inspections cannot be completed as scheduled due to an emergency, such as the COVID-19 PHE. These changes help ensure the health and safety of both NRC and licensee staff while maintaining the NRC's important safety and security mission during the COVID-19 PHE. The attached inspection plan is accurate on the date of issuance but remains subject to change based on approval of potential exemption requests or other changes needed due to changing conditions in the COVID-19 PHE. NRC staff will contact your appropriate regulatory affairs staff in order to coordinate inspection planning and scheduling.

On January 1, 2023, the engineering inspection frequency transitioned from a triennial (3-year) to a quadrennial (4-year) cycle. The new engineering inspection program will consist of a "Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection (CETI)"¹ and three "Focused Engineering Inspections (FEIs)" that will be performed in each quadrennial cycle. For the cycle beginning in 2023, the FEIs will be: "Fire Protection Team Inspection", "Commercial Grade Dedication" and "Age-Related Degradation."

In a letter dated November 30, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21334A370), the NRC acknowledged receipt of your response to the Notice of Violation that was issued in NRC Inspection Report 05000458/2021091 and Investigation Reports 4-2020-008, 4-2020-009, and 4-2020-019, dated September 30, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21272A215). This Notice of Violation included violations involving deliberate misconduct associated with the failure to: (A) control critical digital asset access keys, (B) ensure a tour of all required non-licensed operator watch station areas was completed, and (C) ensure that training examinations were appropriately proctored. This letter also informed you that the Regional Administrator has authorized additional non-baseline inspection using Inspection Procedure 92722, "Follow Up Inspection for Any Severity Level I or II Traditional Enforcement Violation or for Two or More Severity Level III Traditional Enforcement Violations in a 12-Month Period," to review your actions to address these violations due to the range of requirements involved in the willful violations. This inspection will be scheduled when you notify the NRC of your readiness.

NRC Inspection Report 05000458/2022004 dated February 1, 2023 (ADAMS Accession No. ML23031A228), identified that from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, the NRC issued three severity level IV traditional enforcement violations associated with impeding the regulatory process and informed you that the NRC was evaluating whether performance of additional non-baseline inspection procedures is warranted. The Regional Administrator has authorized additional non-baseline inspection using Inspection Procedure 92723, "Follow up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period." The objective of this inspection is to provide assurance that the cause(s) of the traditional enforcement violations are understood, the extent of condition and extent of cause are identified and that corrective actions are sufficient to address the cause(s). This inspection will be scheduled when you notify the NRC of your readiness.

¹ Aspects of the Design Basis Assurance Inspection (DBAI), Evaluation of Changes, Tests, & Experiments, and Heat Sink Inspections are included in the new CETI inspection. Previously scheduled Evaluation of Changes, Tests, & Experiments and Heat Sink inspections have been cancelled and removed from the inspection plan.

In accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (817) 200-1148 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Signed by Josey, Jeffrey
on 03/01/23

Jeffrey E. Josey, Chief
Projects Branch C
Division of Operating Reactor Safety

Docket No. 05000458
License No. NPF-47

Enclosure:
Inspection Plan

cc w/ encl: Distribution via LISTSERV

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR RIVER BEND STATION REPORT 05000458/2022006-
DATED MARCH 01, 2023

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DOCUMENT NAME: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR RIVER BEND STATION REPORT
05000458/2022006

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: **ML23055B075**

☒ SUNSI Review

ADAMS:

☐ Non-Publicly Available

☒ Non-Sensitive

Keyword:

By:

☒ Yes ☐ No

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NRC-002

OFFICE	SPE:DORS/C	BC:DORS/C		
NAME	WSchaup	JJosey		
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/		
DATE	02/28/23	03/01/23		

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Site Inspection Activity Plan

River Bend

01/01/2023 - 12/31/2024

Unit	Start	End	Activity	CAC	Title	Staff Count
License Renewal Inspection 71003 (Phase 1) - RBS						2
1	2/27/2023	3/3/2023	IP 71003	000687	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
Inservice Inspection RFO 22 - RBS						1
1	2/27/2023	3/3/2023	IP 71111.08G	000701	Inservice Inspection Activities (BWR)	
RP 1,3,PI						2
1	2/13/2023	4/7/2023	IP 71124.04	000728	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1	3/13/2023	3/17/2023	IP 71124.01	000725	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	3/13/2023	3/17/2023	IP 71124.03	000727	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
Cyber Security Inspection - RBS						4
1	5/15/2023	5/19/2023	IP 71130.10	000741	Cybersecurity	
Security Access Authorization .01 and Access Control .02 + PIV + Plan Change .09						2
1	6/26/2023	6/30/2023	IP 71130.01	000733	Access Authorization	
1	6/26/2023	6/30/2023	IP 71130.02	000734	Access Control	
1	6/26/2023	6/30/2023	IP 71130.09	001656	Security Plan Changes	
1	6/26/2023	6/30/2023	IP 71151	001338	Performance Indicator Verification	
RP 5,8 -						2
1	7/10/2023	7/14/2023	IP 71124.05	000729	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1	7/10/2023	7/14/2023	IP 71124.08	000732	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing & Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, & Transportation	
Comprehensive Engineering Team Inspection - 21M - River Bend Station						7
1	7/17/2023	7/21/2023	IP 71111.21M	000713	Design Bases Assurance (DBA) Inspection	
1	7/31/2023	8/4/2023	IP 71111.21M	000713	Design Bases Assurance (DBA) Inspection	
EP 2023 Program & PI Inspection - RBS						1
1	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71114.02	000717	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71114.03	000718	Emergency Response Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71114.04	000719	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71114.05	000720	Maintenance of Emergency Preparedness	
1	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71151	001397	Performance Indicator Verification	
Security Protective Strategy .05						2
1	8/14/2023	8/18/2023	IP 71130.05	000737	Protective Strategy Evaluation	
River Bend Station Biennial PI&R						4
1	10/16/2023	10/20/2023	IP 71152B	000747	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	10/30/2023	11/3/2023	IP 71152B	000747	Problem Identification and Resolution	

Site Inspection Activity Plan

Security FFD .08

1

1	10/23/2023	10/27/2023	IP 71130.08	000740	Fitness For Duty Program
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RBS 2023 INIT EXAM

2

1	10/8/2023	10/14/2023	OV	000956	FB-OR-ONSITE VALIDATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION (OV)
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1	11/12/2023	11/18/2023	EXAD	000500	FB-OR-INITIAL LICENSE EXAM ADMINISTRATION (EXAD)
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RP 1,4,PI

2

1	1/29/2024	2/2/2024	IP 71124.01	000725	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls
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1	1/29/2024	2/2/2024	IP 71124.04	000728	Occupational Dose Assessment
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Security Equipment (.04), Security Training (.07)

2

1	3/25/2024	3/29/2024	IP 71130.04	000736	Equipment Performance, Testing, and Maintenance
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1	3/25/2024	3/29/2024	IP 71130.07	000739	Security Training
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EP Exercise & PI Inspection (2024) - RBS

4

1	6/24/2024	6/28/2024	IP 71114.01	000716	Exercise Evaluation
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1	6/24/2024	6/28/2024	IP 71114.04	000719	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes
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1	6/24/2024	6/28/2024	IP 71151	001397	Performance Indicator Verification
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RP 6,7

2

1	7/8/2024	7/12/2024	IP 71124.06	000730	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment
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1	7/8/2024	7/12/2024	IP 71124.07	000731	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program
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RBS 2024 BRQ

3

1	9/8/2024	9/14/2024	IP 71111.11B	000704	Licensed Operator Qualification Program and Licensed Operator Performance
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Commercial Grade Dedication Inspection - 21N - River Bend Station

3

1	9/9/2024	9/13/2024	IP 71111.21N.03	001808	Commercial Grade Dedication
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1	9/23/2024	9/27/2024	IP 71111.21N.03	001808	Commercial Grade Dedication
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RBS 2024 INITIAL EXAM

4

1	8/11/2024	8/17/2024	OV	000956	FB-OR-ONSITE VALIDATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION (OV)
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1	9/29/2024	10/5/2024	EXAD	000500	FB-OR-INITIAL LICENSE EXAM ADMINISTRATION (EXAD)
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Security Access Control (.02), Security Plan Changes (.09), Security PIV (71151)

1

1	10/7/2024	10/11/2024	IP 71130.02	000734	Access Control
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1	10/7/2024	10/11/2024	IP 71130.09	001656	Security Plan Changes
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1	10/7/2024	10/11/2024	IP 71151	001338	Performance Indicator Verification
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MC&A - Material Control and Accounting

1

1	11/18/2024	11/22/2024	IP 71130.11	000742	Material Control and Accounting (MC&A)
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