August 26, 2002

Paul D. Hinnenkamp, Vice President - Operations
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - RIVER BEND STATION

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

On August 1, 2002, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of River Bend Station. In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, “Operating Reactor Assessment Program,” the midcycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating the performance of your River Bend Station facility for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 through December 31, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC’s Action Matrix based on one finding of low to moderate risk significance in the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone for failure to comply with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.47(b)(7). Between 1985 and January 2002, River Bend Station did not provide emergency preparedness information to members of the public utilizing facilities within the licensee’s owner controlled area. A supplemental inspection utilizing Inspection Procedure 95001, “Inspection Procedure for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area,” is scheduled to be conducted during the week of November 25, 2002, to review your actions regarding this risk-significant performance issue.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2003. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In addition, the NRC is in the process of finalizing a Temporary Instruction (TI) that will be used to review implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required by the Agency’s Security Order to all commercial nuclear power plants dated February 25, 2002. Schedules have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that these inspections will begin within the next calendar quarter. Once finalized, the details will be communicated by separate correspondence.
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817/860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ken E. Brockman, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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Entergy Operations, Inc.

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DRP Director (KEB)
DRS Director (EEC)
Senior Resident Inspector (PJA)
Branch Chief, DRP/B (DNG)
Senior Project Engineer, DRP/B (RAK1)
Staff Chief, DRP/TSS (PHH)
RITS Coordinator (NBH)

RidsNrrDipmlipb
B. Henderson, PAO (BWH)
W. A. Maier, RSLO (WAM)
C. J. Gordon (CJG)
DRS Branch Chiefs (GMG, ATG, CSM)
W. D. Travers, EDO (WDT)
C. A. Carpenter, Chief, NRR/DIPM/IIPB (CAC)
R. K. Frahm, PPR Program Manager, NRR/DIPM/IIPB (RKF)
R. W. Borchartdt, Associate Dir. for Inspection and Programs (RWB1)
B. W. Sheron, Associate Dir. for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis (BWS)
J. Shea, Chief, Regional Operations Staff, OEDO (JWS1)
W. Ruland, NRR Project Director (WHR)
R. Gramm, Chief, Section 1, NRR/DLPM (RAG)
D. Wrona, NRR Project Manager (DJW1)

Hard Copy:
Records Center, INPO

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY
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