August 27, 2003

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 6, 2003, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of River Bend Station.  The midcycle review for River Bend Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 through December 31, 2003.  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 that may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green).  However, the safety significance of the improper securing of a condensate demineralizer bypass valve that resulted in a loss of feedwater flow following a reactor scram is still under review utilizing the Significance Determination Process.  We currently plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2004, unless the safety significance of the improper securing of the condensate valve is determined to be greater than very low, in which case our actions will be as specified in NRC’s Action Matrix.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004.  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 inspections in the last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

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

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/

David N. Graves, Chief
Project Branch B
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket:  50-458
License:  NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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The Honorable William D'Aquilla
Mayor, Town of St. Francisville
P.O. Box 400
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities. This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.