March 3, 2004

Paul D. Hinnenkamp
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 US Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA  70775

SUBJECT:  ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - RIVER BEND STATION
(NRC REPORT 05000458/2004001)

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

On February 4, 2004, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of River Bend Station. The end-of-cycle 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 period from 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.

Overall, River Bend Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. 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 safety significance (White) in the mitigating systems cornerstone.

The White finding involved a failure to properly secure a valve in the condensate system that resulted in a loss of feedwater flow following a reactor scram in September 2002. Corrective actions, including procedural changes and additional training, were implemented by your staff following the event. NRC staff conducted a special inspection following occurrence of the event in 2002, and we conducted a supplemental inspection in February 2004. On the basis of our reviews conducted to date, we have concluded that you have adequately addressed the root causes and have implemented appropriate corrective actions.

As you are aware, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2004, we plan to continue inspections of Order implementation combined with newly developed portions of the security baseline inspection program. The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2005. In addition to the baseline
inspections listed in the enclosure, NRC will conduct inspections on your independent spent fuel storage facility as work progresses and construction and operational milestones are achieved. 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 12 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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 this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact David N. Graves at 817/860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/ by MASatorius for

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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ADAMS: ☒ Yes ☐ No Initials: dng
☒ Publicly Available ☐ Non-Publicly Available ☐ Sensitive ☒ Non-Sensitive

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