August 30, 2004

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

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

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

On August 4, 2004, 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 for the first half of the calendar year 2004 assessment cycle. The process included a review of performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. 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.

This performance review and inspection plan does not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as “Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390” will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

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). Therefore, we plan to conduct only reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2006.

The NRC issued a White inspection finding and associated Notice of Violation in a letter to you dated December 29, 2003. The issue was initially discussed in NRC Inspection Report 05000458/2002-07, dated February 7, 2003. It was also discussed in our annual assessment letter, dated March 3, 2004. This finding involved the failure to properly lock open a valve in the condensate system that resulted in a loss of feedwater flow following a reactor scram in September 2002. A supplemental inspection utilizing Inspection Procedure 95001, “Inspection for One or Two White inputs in a Strategic Performance Area,” was performed February 23-27, 2004, to assess the adequacy of your evaluation and to review the corrective actions you have taken for this risk-significant performance issue. Upon completion of the inspection, a Regulatory Performance Meeting was conducted as prescribed in NRC Manual...
Chapter 0305 to discuss the event, root causes, and corrective actions. The supplemental inspection concluded that your staff performed a comprehensive evaluation of the event. The corrective actions taken to address the issues and to prevent recurrence were satisfactory and have been completed.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2006. 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 end-of-cycle 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](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 Mr. David N. Graves at 817-860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc: Senior Vice President and
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Austin, TX  78711-3326

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)  
Records Center  
700 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 100  
Atlanta, GA  30339
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.