



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

File Center  
50-458

December 29, 1999

Mr. Randall K. Edington  
Vice President - Operations  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
River Bend Station  
P. O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 98-04, "POTENTIAL FOR DEGRADATION OF THE EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEM AND THE CONTAINMENT SPRAY SYSTEM AFTER A LOSS-OF-COOLANT ACCIDENT BECAUSE OF CONSTRUCTION AND PROTECTIVE COATING DEFICIENCIES AND FOREIGN MATERIAL IN CONTAINMENT," DATED JULY 14, 1998 (TAC NO. MA4092)

Dear Mr. Edington:

On July 14, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-04 to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits. The NRC issued GL 98-04 to determine the status of containment coating programs.

In GL 98-04, the NRC staff requested that the licensees provide information outlined below for each of their facilities.

- (1) A summary description of the plant-specific program or programs implemented to ensure that Service Level 1 protective coatings used inside the containment are procured, applied, and maintained in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and the plant-specific licensing basis for the facility. Include a discussion of how the plant-specific program meets the applicable criteria of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, as well as information regarding any applicable standards, plant-specific procedures or other guidance used for (a) controlling the procurement of coatings and paints used at the facility; (b) the qualification testing of protective coatings; and (c) surface preparation, application, surveillance, and maintenance activities for protective coatings. Maintenance activities refer to rework of degraded coatings, removing degraded coatings to sound coatings, correctly preparing the surfaces, applying new coating, and verifying the quality of coatings.

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(2) Information demonstrating compliance with item (i) or item (ii).

- (i) For plants with licensing-basis requirements for tracking the amount of unqualified coatings inside the containment and for assessing the impact of potential coating debris on the operation of safety-related systems, structures, and components during a postulated design basis loss-of-coolant accident, the following information shall be provided to demonstrate compliance:
  - (a) The date and findings of the last assessment of coatings and the planned date of the next assessment of coatings.
  - (b) The limit for the amount of unqualified protective coatings allowed in the containment and how this limit is determined. Discuss any conservatism in the method used to determine this limit.
  - (c) If a commercial-grade dedication program is being used at your facility for dedicating commercial-grade coatings for Service Level 1 applications inside the containment, discuss how the program adequately qualifies a coating for Service Level 1. Identify what standards or other guidance are currently being used to dedicate containment coatings at your facility.
- (ii) For plants without the above licensing-basis requirements, information shall be provided to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.46(b)(5), "Long-term cooling" and the functional capability of the safety-related containment spray system as set forth in your licensing basis. If a licensee can demonstrate this compliance without quantifying the amount of unqualified coatings, this is acceptable. The following information shall be provided:

If a commercial-grade dedication program is not being used at your facility for qualifying and dedicating commercial-grade coatings for Service Level 1 applications, provide the regulatory and safety basis for not controlling these coatings in accordance with such a program. Additionally, explain why the facility's licensing basis does not require such a program.

In a letter dated November 12, 1998, you provided Entergy Operations, Inc.'s (EOI) response to the generic letter for River Bend Station. This submittal provided the information requested by GL 98-04. Additional clarification was provided during a telephone call on September 14, 1999,

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with Mr. William Fountain of EOI. The staff has reviewed your response and has concluded that all requested information has been provided; therefore, we consider GL 98-04 to be closed for your facility. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1324.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

cc: See next page

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River Bend Station

cc:

Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Manager - Licensing  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
River Bend Station  
P. O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Senior Resident Inspector  
P. O. Box 1050  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

President of West Feliciana  
Police Jury  
P. O. Box 1921  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, TX 76011

Ms. H. Anne Plettinger  
3456 Villa Rose Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Administrator  
Louisiana Radiation Protection Division  
P. O. Box 82135  
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway  
P. O. Box 651  
Jackson, MS 39205

Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P. O. Box 31995  
Jackson, MS 39286

General Manager - Plant Operations  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
River Bend Station  
P. O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Director - Nuclear Safety  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
River Bend Station  
P. O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

Vice President - Operations Support  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P. O. Box 31995  
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Attorney General  
State of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

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