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GRAND GULF RATED 'SUPERIOR' IN THREE AREAS,  
'GOOD' IN ANOTHER, IN LATEST NRC SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station has received an evaluation of "superior" in three functional areas and "good" in the fourth in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's latest systematic assessment of licensee performance (SALP) report.

The report was sent October 9 to Entergy Operations, Inc., which operates the plant near Port Gibson, Miss. It evaluates the plant's performance between February 25, 1996, and September 6 of this year.

NRC and Entergy officials will discuss the report during a meeting set for 9 a.m., October 29, in the Grand Gulf Energy Center Auditorium. The meeting will be open for public observation. NRC officials will be available afterward to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

NRC systematic assessment reports rate licensees in four functional areas--plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support--and assign ratings of category 1, 2, or 3 which characterize performance as superior, good or adequate. Grand Gulf was given the following scores on the current SALP and previous SALP in 1996:

Functional areas & ratings

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Previous</u>
Plant Operations	1	1
Maintenance	1	2
Engineering	1	1
Plant Support	2	1

In his cover letter to the report, NRC Regional Administrator Ellis W. Merschoff said, "Your performance during this rating period continued to demonstrate Entergy's commitment to the safe and conservative operation of the Grand Gulf facility."

"The superior rating in the Operations area was highlighted by the excellent performance of the operators during abnormal and non-routine events, and by management's safety-conscious decisionmaking," Mr. Merschoff said. Maintenance performance was characterized by the improved condition of the plant and the significant reduction in maintenance-related plant transients.

The superior rating in Engineering was based on the high quality of the systems engineering functions, the continued emphasis on training within the entire engineering organization, and the strength of engineering self-assessments.

Plant Support declined due to weaknesses in emergency preparedness. These weaknesses were noted during NRC inspections and during an exercise held in September. A decline in performance was also noticed in the implementation of radiological controls practices.

EDITORS: A copy of the full SALP report is available from this office on request, or on internet at [www.nrc.gov/OPA](http://www.nrc.gov/OPA).