

February 08, 2001

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 RE: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02, "LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" (TAC NO. MA5837)

Dear Mr. Edington:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02 to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the generic letter was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses on the implementation of the actions requested in this generic letter.

In response to GL 99-02, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) provided a letter dated November 23, 1999, as supplemented by letter dated October 12, 2000, which included a request for a license amendment to change the TS to provide for testing of charcoal samples as described in the generic letter. The NRC staff has reviewed the Entergy letters and concludes that Entergy has provided the requested information and a TS change request in accordance with the generic letter for River Bend Station, Unit 1 (RBS). In addition, Entergy committed to test charcoal samples in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989 until the RBS TS

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amendments are issued. The TS change request was reviewed as separate, plant-specific action under TAC No. MA8094, and Amendment No. 115 to the license, incorporating the use of ASTM D3803-1989 into the TS, was issued on December 20, 2000, for RBS. Therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for RBS.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Robert E. Moody, Project Manager  
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

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May 1999