

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

November 6, 1998

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
 IMPACT REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 70.24 REGARDING
 CRITICALITY ACCIDENT REQUIREMENTS - RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1
 (TAC NO. M98877)

Dear Mr. Edington:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated May 15, 1997, as supplemented August 12, 1998. Your application requested an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR 70.24, "Criticality Accident Requirements."

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Robert J. Fretz, Jr., Project Manager
 Project Directorate IV-1
 Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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NAME	RFretz <i>RF</i>	CHawes <i>CH</i>	TEssig <i>TE</i>	<i>APH</i>	JHannon
DATE	10/6/98	10/6/98	10/9/98	10/20/98	11/6/98
COPY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

concern of comments

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONENTERGY OPERATIONS, INCORPORATEDDOCKET NO. 50-458RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from certain requirements of its regulations to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47, issued to Entergy Operations, Incorporated¹ (the Licensee), the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-47, which authorizes operation of the River Bend Station, Unit 1 (RBS) (the facility) located approximately 2 miles east of the Mississippi River in West Feliciana, Parish, Louisiana, approximately 2.7 miles southeast of St. Francisville, Louisiana and approximately 18 miles northwest of the city limits of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's amended application for exemption dated May 15, 1997, as supplemented August 12, 1998, which requests an exemption from the criticality accident monitoring requirements of 10 CFR 70.24(a) specifically for areas containing incore detectors (which are not in use) and unirradiated fuel while it is handled, used, or stored. 10 CFR 70.24 requires in each area in which special nuclear material

¹ Entergy Operations, Incorporated is authorized to act as agent for Entergy Gulf States, Inc. and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation and maintenance of the facility.

Louisiana State Official, Dr. Stan Shaw, of the of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Radiation Protection Division, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

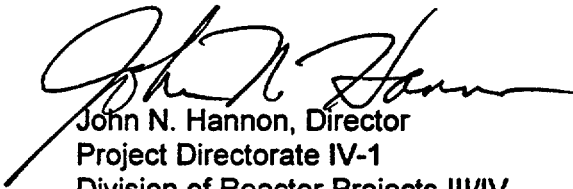
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 12, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room located at the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Government Documents Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 6th day of November 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


John N. Hannon, Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation