



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

September 30, 2003

Jeff S. Forbes, Vice President,  
Operations - Grand Gulf Nuclear Station  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 756  
Port Gibson, MS 39150

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DEFICIENCY IDENTIFIED  
DURING THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2003, EXERCISE**

Dear Mr. Forbes:

Enclosed is a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region VI's letter to the State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, dated September 24, 2003. This letter discusses a deficiency identified during evaluation of the September 17, 2003, emergency preparedness exercise at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Generating Station. FEMA defines a deficiency as, "an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant." Specifically, the deficiency is that Tensas Parish, Louisiana, is unable to ensure prompt notification to members of the public using the Emergency Alert System because radio station KNOE cannot immediately broadcast emergency information between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate FEMA's official notification of the deficiency in accordance with the NRC-FEMA Memorandum of Understanding. No response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is required.

The NRC encourages Grand Gulf Nuclear Station to work with the appropriate off-site governmental agencies to ensure a timely resolution of this issue. The NRC will continue to monitor the status of this issue. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the NRC and FEMA Region VI will assess the progress made towards resolution of this issue by approximately December 1, 2003, and will decide at that time if additional measures are necessary.

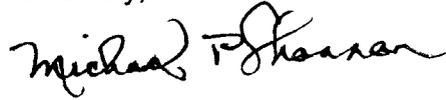
If this issue is not resolved by January 24, 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency may withdraw the finding of reasonable assurance according to the requirements of 44 CFR 350.13(a). At that time the NRC would take appropriate action according to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(s)(2) and 50.54(s)(3).

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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If you have any further questions, please contact Ryan E. Lantz at (817) 860-8158, or Paul J. Elkmann at (817) 276-6539.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Shannon, Acting Chief  
Plant Support Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-416  
License: NPF-29

Attachment:  
FEMA Region VI Letter to Louisiana Department of  
Environmental Quality, dated September 24, 2003

Senior Vice President  
and Chief Operating Officer  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 31995  
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

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

Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, N.W. - 12th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Jay Barkley, Chief  
Energy & Transportation Branch  
Environmental Compliance and  
Enforcement Division  
Mississippi Department of  
Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 10385  
Jackson, MS 39289-0385

President, District 1  
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 339  
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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General Manager  
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 756  
Port Gibson, MS 39150

The Honorable Richard Ieyoub  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
State of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94005  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005

Office of the Governor  
State of Mississippi  
Jackson, MS 39201

Mike Moore, Attorney General  
Frank Spencer, Asst. Attorney General  
State of MS  
P.O. Box 22947  
Jackson, MS 39225

Dr. Brian W. Amy  
State Health Officer  
State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 1700  
Jackson, MS 39215

Robert W. Goff, Program Director  
Division of Radiological Health  
Mississippi Dept. of Health  
P.O. Box 1700  
Jackson, MS 39215-1700

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

Director, Nuclear Safety  
and Regulatory Affairs  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 756  
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Technological Services Branch  
Chief  
FEMA Region IV  
3003 Chamblee Tucker Rd.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Technological Services Branch  
Chief,  
FEMA Region VI  
Federal Regional Center  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, Texas 76201-3698

ATTACHMENT



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region VI  
Federal Regional Center  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209-3606

September 24, 2003

Mr. N. Chris Roberie, Administrator  
Surveillance Division  
Office of Environmental Compliance  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 4312  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

Dear Mr. Roberie:

This letter officially informs you of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) identification of a Deficiency which occurred during the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Radiological Emergency Preparedness Exercise conducted on September 17, 2003. This issue was discussed during the post exercise participants' briefing on September 18, 2003.

The Deficiency is being assessed against the Tensas Parish EOC under Evaluation Area Criterion 5.a.1, Activation of the Prompt Alert and Notification System.

During the exercise performed on September 17, 2003, the prompt alerting of the public was unsuccessfully demonstrated. Radio Station KNOE-FM Monroe, LA, is the primary warning point for Louisiana residents in the EPZ. The station is equipped with a dedicated phone and fax from the Tensas Parish EOC, where protective actions decisions are made. The FM station is located in a separate area of a large broadcast complex, and the FM station is unmanned and automated from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

KNOE is unsatisfactory as currently configured for a 24-hour warning point because the dedicated phone and fax ring only in the FM studio, which is not staffed from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Tensas Parish residents are left in an information void during those hours when the sirens can be activated with no emergency instructions broadcast.

The station's dedicated phone lines and fax should be redundant within the AM radio and TV stations where there are 24-hour duty personnel. A radio override system could be installed so that the Tensas Parish Emergency Management Director could control the broadcast from the EOC.

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Chris Roberie  
September 24, 2003  
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We have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with FEMA Headquarters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. FEMA defines a Deficiency as "...an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that offsite emergency preparedness is not adequate to provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can be taken in the event of a radiological emergency to protect the health and safety of the public living in the vicinity of a nuclear power plant."

Because of the potential impact on the public health and safety, this situation should be corrected within 120 days of the exercise date through appropriate remedial actions. Please coordinate with this office the date and time of the pertinent remedial actions and identity of the State, Parish or other participants within 10 days from the date of this letter.

Your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Hammond, Chair, Regional Assistance Committee, FEMA Region VI, at 940-898-5199.

Sincerely,



Gary E. Jones  
Acting Regional Director

cc: Vanessa Quinn, FEMA HQ  
William A. Maier, NRC Region IV  
Rick Foster, Tensas Parish OEP

Electronic distribution by RIV w/o enclosure:

- Regional Administrator (**BSM1**)
- DRP Director (**ATH**)
- DRS Director (**DDC**)
- Senior Resident Inspector (**TLH4**)
- Branch Chief, DRP/A (**WDJ**)
- Senior Project Engineer, DRP/A (**TRF**)
- Staff Chief, DRP/TSS (**PHH**)
- RITS Coordinator (**NBH**)
- Regional State Liaison Officer (**WAM**)
- NRR/DIPM/EPB/EPHP (**EWB**)
- NRR/DIPM/EPB/EPHP (**REM2**)
- DMB (AO45)

ADAMS:  Yes     No    Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Publicly Available     Non-Publicly Available     Sensitive     Non-Sensitive

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<b>RIV:PSB</b>	<b>C:PSB</b>			
PJEIkman	MPShannon			
9/24/03	9/ /03			

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