

Mr. Paul D. Hinnenkamp
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 US Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE (TAC NO. MC8227)

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

The enclosed announcement was forwarded to St. Francisville Democrat (in St. Francisville) and the The Advocate (in Baton Rouge) for publication. This announcement relates to your application dated August 31, 2005, for amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47.

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specifications (TSs) to correct certain requirements for the Loss of Power (LOP) instrumentation that were erroneously introduced in Amendment 81, dated July 20, 1995. Specifically, the amendment revises TS Table 3.3.8.1-1 to correct the number of Required Channels per Division for the LOP time delay functions and deletes the requirement to perform Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.3.8.1.2, the monthly Channel Functional Test on certain LOP time delay functions. The proposed changes will achieve conformity with the current River Bend Station design basis and regulatory standards.

A separate notice will be published later in the *Federal Register* concerning the revision to SR 3.3.8.1.2 of the Technical Specifications.

Sincerely,

N. Kalyanam, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Public Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Paul D. Hinnenkamp
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 US Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

September 2, 2005

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/RA/
N. Kalyanam, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO AMEND FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AT RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has received an application dated August 31, 2005, from Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy or the licensee), for an exigent amendment to the operating license for River Bend Station, Unit 1 (RBS). The facility is located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, approximately 29 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specifications (TSs) to correct certain requirements for the Loss of Power (LOP) instrumentation that were erroneously introduced in Amendment 81, dated July 20, 1995. Specifically, the amendment revises TS Table 3.3.8.1-1 to correct the number of Required Channels per Division for the LOP time delay functions and deletes the requirement to perform Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.3.8.1.2, the monthly Channel Functional Test on certain LOP time delay functions. The proposed changes will achieve conformity with the current RBS design basis and regulatory standards.

By way of background, the LOP instrumentation is installed to monitor the normal power supply to the 4.16 kV emergency buses. Successful operation of the emergency core cooling systems is dependent upon the availability of adequate power sources. Offsite power is the preferred source of power for the 4.16 kV emergency buses. If the monitors determine that sufficient power is not available, the buses are disconnected from the offsite power sources and connected to the onsite diesel generator (DG) power sources. Each 4.16 kV emergency bus has its own independent LOP instrumentation and associated trip logic. The voltage on each bus is monitored at two undervoltage protection levels: loss of voltage and degraded voltage. The degraded voltage protection instrumentation is set at about 90 percent and utilizes two

separate time delays, one for loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) condition and the other for a no LOCA condition. The time delay functions were not listed as separate functions prior to converting the RBS TS to the Improved TS (ITS) format. The RBS TS format was converted to the ITS format by Amendment 81, dated July 20, 1995. NUREG-1434, "Standard Technical Specifications, General Electric Plants, BWR/6," included the LOP time delays as separate functions in Table 3.3.8.1-1, Loss of Power Instrumentation. The RBS amendment request for the ITS conversion incorrectly listed the time delay functions for Divisions 1 and 2 as having three channels per division when in fact the RBS design uses only one single relay for each function in each division. This proposed amendment seeks to correct this error by identifying that the delay functions are only one per division. On August 16, 2005, Entergy considered the nature of the discrepancy and determined that a TS change was needed to correct the TS. Additionally, Entergy determined that per SR 3.0.3, a 31-day delay period was allowed to complete the missed surveillance. Therefore, the surveillance must be performed by September 16, 2005, or the Limiting Condition for Operation, which is to declare all three DGs to be inoperable, would result in a plant shutdown. Due to the short time interval between the submission of this request and the actual performance of the surveillance, insufficient time remains for normal NRC processing and notification. Therefore, the licensee requested that this proposed TS change be considered as submitted under exigent circumstances as described in 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6).

The licensee and NRC staff have evaluated this proposed change with regard to the determination of whether or not a significant hazards consideration is involved. Operation of RBS, in accordance with the proposed amendment will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The proposed changes regarding the number of required channels per division for the LOP time delay functions are administrative in nature. The changes do not alter the instrumentation design or their physical configuration, and will not affect their operation or manner of control. The proposed changes correct an inconsistency between a TS Table and the RBS design basis. The TS required number of voltage sensors per division and associated channel components that monitor voltage conditions and provide the 4.16 kV bus voltage protection are unchanged.

The exclusion of the time delay functions from the monthly Channel Functional Test is proposed because the test creates a loss of function for the LOP instrumentation and is therefore undesirable during unit operations. The test also introduces the potential for an unintended plant transient, so the elimination of the requirement reduces the potential for such transients.

The channel functional test will continue to be performed every 31 days for the sensor channels. In addition, the LOP time delay functions will continue to be functionally tested and calibrated every 18 months as required by SR 3.3.8.1.3 and SR 3.3.8.1.4. Therefore, the required LOP instrumentation will continue to be tested in a manner and at a frequency necessary to provide confidence that the instrumentation can perform its intended safety function.

The proposed amendment will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The changes do not alter the instrumentation design or their physical configuration, and will not affect their operation or manner of control. The proposed TS changes do not introduce any new failure mechanisms, malfunctions, or accident initiators not considered in the design and licensing bases.

The proposed amendment will not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The proposed changes have no affect on any safety analysis assumptions or methods of performing safety analyses. The changes do not adversely affect system OPERABILITY or design requirements and the equipment continues to be tested in a manner and at a frequency necessary to provide confidence that the equipment can perform its intended safety functions. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.36(c)(3) requirements, the TS must include Surveillance Requirements relating to test, calibration, or inspection to assure that the necessary quality of systems and components is maintained, that facility operation will be within safety limits, and that the limiting conditions for operation will be met. The channel functional test will continue to be performed every 31 days for the sensor channels. In addition, the LOP time delay functions will continue to be functionally tested and calibrated every 18 months as required by SR 3.3.8.1.3 and SR 3.3.8.1.4.

Following an initial review of this application, the requested amendment has been evaluated against the standards in 10 CFR 50.92. Based on the analysis in the application, as set forth above, it appears that the changes do not significantly increase the probability or consequences of any accident previously considered, do not create the possibility of an accident of a different kind, and do not significantly decrease any margin of safety. Accordingly, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the requested amendment involves no significant hazards consideration.

If the proposed determination that the requested license amendment involves no significant hazards consideration becomes final, the staff will issue the amendment without first offering an opportunity for a prior public hearing. An opportunity for a hearing will be published in the *Federal Register*.

If the staff decides in its final determination that the amendment does involve a significant hazards consideration, a notice of opportunity for a prior hearing will be published in the *Federal Register* and, if a hearing is granted, it will be held before the amendment is issued.

Comments on the proposed determination of no significant hazards consideration may be (1) telephoned to David Terao, Section 1, Project Directorate IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, by collect call to 301-415-3317, or by facsimile to 301-415-7025; (2) e-mailed to dxt@nrc.gov; or (3) submitted in writing to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. All comments received on September 9, 2005, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., will be considered in reaching a final determination. A copy of the application may be examined electronically through the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

River Bend Station

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May 2005