



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

July 12, 2010

Michael Perito
Vice President, Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 US Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

**SUBJECT: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY OFFSITE DEFICIENCY
IDENTIFIED DURING THE JUNE 8, 2010, RIVER BEND STATION BIENNIAL
EXERCISE**

Dear Mr. Perito:

Enclosed is a copy of Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region VI's letter to Mr. Mark Cooper, Director, (Louisiana) Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and Mr. Jeffery Meyers, Administrator, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, dated June 17, 2010 (ADAMS Accession No. 101880032). This letter discusses an exercise deficiency identified during evaluation of the June 8, 2010, emergency preparedness exercise at River Bend 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 was that offsite emergency warning sirens were not sounded when required during the exercise to inform the public to listen to Emergency Alert System messages (simulated sounding). The failure to sound the sirens (simulated) could have significantly delayed the public's receipt of critical situational and protective action information.

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

The NRC encourages River Bend Station to work with the appropriate offsite 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 will assess the progress made toward resolution of this issue by approximately October 7, 2010, and will decide at that time if additional measures are necessary.

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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If this issue is not resolved by October 7, 2010, FEMA 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).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any further questions, please contact Paul J. Elkmann at (817) 276-6539, or Gilbert Guerra at (817) 276-6557.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Shannon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Michael P. Shannon, Chief
Plant Support Branch-1
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-458

License: NPF-47

Attachment:

FEMA Region VI Letter to Mr. Mark Cooper, Director, (Louisiana) Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and Jeffery Meyers, Administrator, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, dated June 17, 2010 (ADAMS Accession No.: ML101880032)

cc w/attachment:

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Mr. Jim Calloway
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FEMA

June 17, 2010

Mark A. Cooper, Director
Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness
7667 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Jeffrey P. Meyers, Administrator
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
602 N. Fifth Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Mr. Cooper and Mr. Meyers:

The purpose of this letter is to officially notify you of three identified Deficiencies that occurred during the June 8-9, 2010, River Bend Station Plume and Ingestion Pathway Exercise. These deficiencies were discussed during the post-exercise participant's briefing on June 10, 2010.

The identified Deficiencies are attributed to the East Feliciana Parish, East Baton Rouge Parish, and Pointe Coupee Parish, Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) under Evaluation Area Criterion 5.a.1., Activation of the Prompt Alert and Notification System.

This criterion indicates that the activation of the sirens should occur before the Emergency Alert System (EAS) message is broadcasted. This ensures that the public is alerted and then provided sufficient time to tune into the EAS station in order to listen to the EAS message. During the exercise, the sirens were not sounded while the EAS messages (Scenario #8 and #22) were broadcasted at the agreed times. The Parishes failed to sound the sirens (simulated), which did not alert the public to tune into the EAS station. From that point, the public would not have known to listen for an EAS broadcast and as a result, the population in the affected area could have experienced a significant delay in receiving critical information related to the emergency situation.

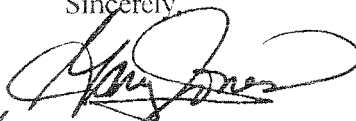
We have thoroughly reviewed and discussed this issue with DHS-FEMA Headquarters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). FEMA defines a deficiency as "*...an observed or identified inadequacy of organizational performance in an exercise that could cause a finding that off-site emergency preparedness 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.*"

Mark A. Cooper and Jeffrey P. Meyers
June 17, 2010
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Because of the potential impact on public health and safety, this situation should be corrected within 120 days of the exercise date through appropriate remedial actions. Please let us know the timing of these remedial actions and the identity of the utility, state and local participants who will be involved.

Your reply is required within ten days from the date of this letter, and your cooperation in this matter is sincerely appreciated. Please contact Lisa Hammond, Regional Assistance Committee Chair, at (940) 898-5199 with any questions relating to this letter.

Sincerely,


for Tony Russell
Regional Administrator

cc: Vanessa Quinn – FEMA HQ
Michael Perito – River Bend Station
Elmo Collins – NRC Region IV