UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 E LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

September 2, 2014

Mr. Eric W. Olson
Site Vice President
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 U.S. Highway 61
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR RIVER BEND STATION (REPORT 05000458/2014006)

Dear Mr. Olson:

On August 14, 2014, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of the River Bend Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of the River Bend Station during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, the River Bend Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at the River Bend Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e. ,Green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., Green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

Although plant performance was within the Licensee Response Column, the NRC has not yet finalized the significance of Apparent Violation (AV) 05000458/2014405-01. This finding is an input to the Securtiy Cornerstone and was communicated to your staff on June 20, 2014. The final safety significance determination may affect the NRC's assessment of plant performance and the enclosed inspection plan.

As a result of the Safety Culture Common Language Initiative, the terminology and coding of cross-cutting aspects were revised. All cross-cutting aspects identified during inspections conducted in calendar year 2014 reflect this revision to Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0310. Cross-cutting aspects identified in 2013 using the 2013 terminology were converted to the latest revision in accordance with the cross-reference in IMC 0310 during the mid-cycle assessment review and evaluated for cross-cutting themes and potential substantive cross-cutting issues in accordance with IMC 0305.

In our 2011 Annual Assessment letter (ML 120610414) dated March 5, 2012, the NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the Safety Conscious Work Environment component of Environment for Raising Concerns. This theme resulted from the issuance of a Confirmatory Order dated August 24, 2011, that involved discrimination. The cross-cutting aspect was related to behavior and actions that encourage free flow of information related to raising nuclear safety issues such that personnel raise nuclear safety issues without fear of retaliation [S.1/S.1(a)]. At that time, the NRC determined that a substantive cross-cutting issue did not exist because the NRC did not have concerns with the actions you committed to take to address the theme.

By letter, dated August 23, 2012, Entergy notified the NRC of the actions that had been taken in response to the requirements imposed by the Confirmatory Order. Accordingly, during the week of April 29, 2013, NRC staff from the Office of Enforcement and Region IV performed an inspection at the River Bend Station to assess the specific actions identified in Entergy's response letter. NRC staff also verified implementation of the remaining actions required to satisfy the conditions set forth in the Confirmatory Order. Subsequent to this inspection, NRC staff continued to interact with Entergy regarding the adequacy of the corrective and preventive actions related to the underlying discriminatory issue. Based on these reviews, the NRC determined that Entergy properly implemented the conditions specified in the Confirmatory Order and the associated actions were adequately implemented. Therefore, the criteria for a cross-cutting theme in the Safety Conscious Work Environment component of Environment for Raising Concerns [S.1] are no longer met.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2015. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, “Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events,” which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, “Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation,” which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate licensee plans for complying with the Orders, as described in site-specific submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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).

Please contact me at (817) 200-1144 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Donald B. Allen, Chief
Project Branch C

Docket No.: 50-458
License No.: NPF-47

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Letter to Eric W. Olson from Troy Pruett dated September 2, 2014

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR RIVER BEND STATION (REPORT 05000458/2014006)

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River Bend
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2014 - 12/31/2015

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			EXAM	**- INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM**	**4**
1	11/03/2014	11/07/2014	X02534	INITIAL EXAM- RIVER BEND (4/1/15)	
1	12/08/2014	12/12/2014	X02534	INITIAL EXAM- RIVER BEND (4/1/15)	
			INSP	**- BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION**	**3**
1	09/15/2014	09/19/2014	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			EB1-07T	**- TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION**	**1**
1	11/17/2014	11/21/2014	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			71111.08	**- INSERVICE INSPECTION**	**1**
1	02/23/2015	03/06/2015	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			RS 12 PI	**- RADIATION SAFETY**	**2**
1	03/02/2015	03/06/2015	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	03/02/2015	03/06/2015	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	03/02/2015	03/06/2015	IP 71151-OR01		
1	03/02/2015	03/06/2015	IP 71151-PR01		
			TSB 52B	**- BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION**	**4**
1	06/01/2015	06/05/2015	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	06/15/2015	06/19/2015	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			EP-1	**- BIENNAIL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION**	**1**
1	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
			EP-2	**- EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**	**1**
1	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 71151-EP01		
1	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 71151-EP02		
1	08/17/2015	08/21/2015	IP 71151-EP03		
			EB1-17T	**- RBS PERMANENT PLANT MODS & 50.59**	**3**
1	09/28/2015	10/09/2015	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			RS 5678	**- RADIATION SAFETY - TEAM**	**4**
1	11/30/2015	12/04/2015	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1	11/30/2015	12/04/2015	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	11/30/2015	12/04/2015	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	11/30/2015	12/04/2015	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.