

No: IV-15-006

March 30, 2015

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NRC Begins Special Inspection at River Bend Station

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has begun a special inspection at the River Bend nuclear power plant to review circumstances surrounding the failure during testing of equipment needed to provide ventilation and cooling to plant areas with safety-related equipment. The plant, operated by Entergy Operations, Inc., is located in St. Francisville, La.

During periodic testing on March 9, equipment that provides ventilation and cooling to plant areas with safety-related equipment failed to start. A similar failure occurred during testing on Feb. 23.

“The March 9 event raises some concern with how electrical equipment has been maintained at the plant,” NRC Region IV Administrator Marc Dapas said. “The purpose of this special inspection is to determine if there are any generic implications from equipment failures that occurred during the event.”

Two NRC inspectors will spend about a week on site evaluating the licensee’s root cause analysis, maintenance of some plant systems and adequacy of corrective actions. An inspection report documenting the team’s findings will be publicly available within 45 days of the end of the inspection.