



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

February 15, 1994

Docket No. 50-458
NOED No. 94-6-003

Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
ATTN: Mr. John R. McGaha, Jr.
Vice President - Operations
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Dear Mr. McGaha:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION FOR ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.
REGARDING RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - EXTENSION OF SURVEILLANCE
INTERVALS UNTIL THE FIFTH REFUELING OUTAGE (TAC NO. 88744)

By letter dated February 3, 1994, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issue an amendment related to the Gulf States Utilities application dated December 8, 1993, on or before February 16, 1994. The proposed amendment requested extensions of various surveillance intervals to the next planned refueling outage, presently scheduled to begin April 16, 1994, in order to prevent a plant shutdown solely to perform these surveillances. The public notice period for the proposed amendment does not expire until February 17, 1994. After consultation within the Offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and the General Counsel, the staff has determined that the best course of action is to proceed with the processing of the December 8, 1993, application in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(a)(2), allowing the normal 30-day comment period, and to issue a notice of enforcement discretion related to those surveillance requirements which will become overdue on February 16 and 17, 1994.

Your letter dated February 3, 1994, specified that the surveillance requirements which are due on these dates are Technical Specification 4.3.2.3, Table 3.3.2-3, Item 2.d, Main Steam Line High Flow Isolation Response Time Testing; Technical Specification 4.3.1.3, Table 3.3.1-2, Item 2.b, RPS-APRM Flow Biased-Thermal Power Response Time Testing; and Technical Specification 4.3.2.3, Table 3.3.2-3, Isolation System Instrumentation Response Time Testing. Exceeding the allowable surveillance intervals would require the associated systems to be declared inoperable, in accordance with Technical Specification 4.0.3; and the actions required by the specific limiting conditions for operation for the affected instrumentation would require a plant shutdown. The justification for the surveillance interval extensions which was provided by your submittal of December 8, 1993, stated that the operability of the affected instrumentation and equipment was not adversely impacted by the extension of the surveillance intervals.

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On the basis of our review of your justification, the staff has concluded that this course of action involves minimum or no safety impact, and we are clearly satisfied that this exercise of enforcement discretion is warranted from a public health and safety perspective. Therefore, it is our intention to exercise discretion not to enforce compliance with Technical Specification 4.3.2.3, Table 3.3.2-3, Item 2.d; Technical Specification 4.3.1.3, Table 3.3.1-2, Item 2.b; and Technical Specification 4.3.2.3, Table 3.3.2-3, Items 1.a, 2.a, 2.c, 3.a, and 4.e until the staff takes action on your application dated December 8, 1993.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Elinor G. Adensam, Assistant Director
for Region IV and V Reactors
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Winston & Strawn
ATTN: Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esq.
1400 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3502

Mr. Otto Bulch
Director - Nuclear Licensing
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Mr. Philip G. Harris
Cajun Electric Power Coop, Inc.
10719 Airline Highway
P. O. Box 15540
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895

Senior Resident Inspector
P. O. Box 1051
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

President of West Feliciana
Police Jury
P. O. Box 1921
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. J. David McNeill, III
William G. Davis, Esq.
Department of Justice
Attorney General's Office
P. O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095

Ms. H. Anne Plettinger
3456 Villa Rose Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Administrator
Louisiana Radiation Protection Division
P. O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2135

Mr. Harold W. Keiser
Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286

Mr. Michael B. Sellman
Plant Manager
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Mr. James J. Fisicaro
Manager - Safety Assessment and Quality
Verification
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
Post Office Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775