



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

MAR - 8 1994

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Entergy Operations, Inc.
ATTN: John R. McGaha, Vice President -
Operations, River Bend Station
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP)

The NRC SALP has been completed for your River Bend Station facility. Enclosed for your review, is the SALP 13 Report for the River Bend Station, covering the period September 27, 1992, through January 29, 1994. This SALP was conducted under the revised process implemented by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on July 19, 1993. A meeting to discuss this report with you and your staff has been scheduled for March 18, 1994, at the Training Center Auditorium at the River Bend Station.

During this meeting, you are encouraged and expected to candidly discuss any comments you may have regarding our report. While this meeting is considered a presentation and discussion forum between Entergy and the NRC the meeting will be opened to any other interested parties as observers.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the recommendations resulting from the SALP Board assessment and concur with the ratings and views. The areas of Plant Operations and Plant Support were assigned Category 2 ratings, reflecting good performance. The areas of Maintenance and Engineering received Category 3 ratings, reflecting adequate performance in each of these areas. Our analysis indicates that your performance has declined over the last two SALP periods and was disappointing. The reasons for this overall decline in performance have been the lack of clear management expectations, oversight, and control of plant activities. In addition, management's willingness to live with degraded hardware and equipment problems contributed to the willingness of operators to work around problems. This attitude resulted in frustration of the operations staff when questioning and aggressively pursuing potential plant issues and has resulted in an ineffective corrective action program. In addition, engineering's poor support to other organizations contributed to the untimely resolution of emergent issues and equipment problems.

We note that the operation of River Bend Station is in transition from Gulf States Utilities to Entergy Operations, Inc. and that improvement initiatives and management changes have been effective in addressing some significant

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weaknesses identified early in the SALP period in the areas of radiological controls, fire protection, and security.

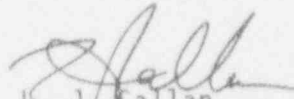
Several continuing challenges are noted in the enclosed report. They include: in the Operations area, identifying and implementing corrective measures necessary to achieve improved performance; in the Maintenance area, repairing degraded hardware and equipment and improving plant material condition; in the Engineering area, improving engineering responsiveness and involvement in emerging plant issues, improving root cause analysis, and improving 10 CFR 50.59 reviews; and in the Plant Support area, reducing high person-rem exposure and improving housekeeping, especially during outages.

Your program for self-assessment had not been effective in arresting the decline in performance of River Bend Station. Line management has not been effective in developing and implementing corrective actions for identified problems. In addition, there appeared to be a reluctance by plant staff to use the nonconforming condition identification and corrective action program and a lack of worker understanding of the corrective action program. While your quality assurance audit and surveillance programs were generally effective at identifying problems, documentation was occasionally weak, depriving senior management of valuable information on plant performance. Corrective action program implementation across the SALP functional areas was generally weak with additional attention required in all areas.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the SALP report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP Report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you. While no written response is required, if you wish, you may provide written comments within 30 days of the SALP meeting.

Sincerely,



L. J. Callan
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
Inspection Report 50-458/94-99

cc w/enclosure:
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E-Mail report to D. Sullivan (DJS)

bcc to DMB (IE40)

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 MIS System
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 Senior Resident Inspector, Cooper
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 Commissioner Rogers (MS: 16-G-15)
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 Commissioner Remick (MS: 16-G-15)
 Commissioner de Planque (MS: 16-G-15)
 J. M. Taylor, EDO (MS: 17-G-21)
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DRA <i>JM</i>	RA <i>JM</i>			
JMMontgomery	LJCallan			
3/9/94	3/9/94			

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