

Docket



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 4, 1994

Docket No. 50-458

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: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 93-03, "RESOLUTION OF ISSUES RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL INSTRUMENTATION IN BWRs" (TAC NO. M86911)

Entergy Operations, Inc. responded to Bulletin 93-03 by letter dated October 1, 1993. The October 1, 1993, response superseded your original response dated July 30, 1993. The bulletin was issued May 28, 1993, to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling water reactors (BWRs) with the exception of Millstone 1 and Big Rock Point. The bulletin requested licensees to take short-term compensatory measures within 15 days of the bulletin to ensure operators can identify and mitigate potential level errors. The bulletin also requested licensees to implement hardware modifications at the first cold shutdown after July 30, 1993, to ensure the level instrumentation system design is of high functional reliability for long-term operation.

Your response stated that you (1) have implemented appropriate short-term compensatory measures; (2) are going to install a continuous backfill system for all four water level reference legs on an alternate schedule consisting of installation during the first cold shutdown after December 8, 1993, based on previously established backfill procedures, recent operator training on this issue, and enhancements to control room instrumentation and operating procedures; (3) determined that the modification does not involve an unreviewed safety question; and (4) will implement the change under 10 CFR 50.59.

Based on the information provided in your October 1, 1993, letter, we consider your response to Bulletin 93-03 acceptable. Please retain records related to your actions taken in response to this bulletin for possible future inspections by the NRC staff.

This completes the licensing action for TAC No. M86911. As stated in Bulletin 93-03, you are required to submit a report within 30 days of completion of the hardware modification, confirming completion and describing the modification that was implemented.

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On November 26, 1993, the NRC staff issued NRC Information Notice (IN) 93-89, "Potential Problems with BWR Level Instrumentation Backfill Modifications." The staff is still reviewing the concerns identified in this IN, and any possible actions will be addressed separately.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Robert G. Schaaf, Acting Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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cc:

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

Mr. Otto Bulich
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

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

Mr. Jerrold G. Dewease
Vice President - Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub
Attorney General
State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095