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James J. Fisicaro
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
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Subject: River Bend Station - Unit 1
Docket No. 50-458
Special Report (Final) - Failure of Division II EDG Ventilation Fan Breaker

File No.: G9.5, G9.25.1.7

RBG-41990
RBF1-95-0226

Gentlemen:

As discussed in an interim Special Report dated February 14, 1995, the Division II Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) experienced an invalid failure on January 19, 1995, when the diesel room standby ventilation fan failed to auto-start during the monthly operability test. This failure to start was due to the failure of the fan supply breaker to close. After the event, onsite testing failed to conclusively identify the root cause of the failure and the breaker was sent to the General Electric (GE) Service Center for further testing. Testing of the breaker was completed by GE in July 1995. Entergy Operations, Inc., has completed the root cause assessment, as discussed below, which completes the reporting requirements for this event.

Extensive testing both onsite and at the GE Service Center could not repeat the breaker failure-to-close but ruled out possible causes, such as excessive wear, binding or broken parts. Onsite testing identified intermittent operation of a normally closed contact associated with the bell alarm feature of the subject GE AKR-30 breaker which prevents closing the breaker after a trip device actuation without first operating the reset button at the breaker. The intermittent opening of this contact would have prevented breaker closure; however, this condition could not be duplicated at the GE Service Center. In total, the breaker was successfully cycled 75 times with no failures. Due to the depth of the investigation and comprehensive testing which failed to conclusively duplicate the breaker failure, it is believed that this event was an isolated occurrence caused by intermittent operation of the bell alarm feature.

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Subsequent to the event, a replacement breaker was installed and verified operable. In addition, as a result of the initial observations, the bell alarm feature on the current spare breaker (breaker tested by GE) will be replaced.

If there are any questions concerning this issue please contact R. M. McAdams at (504) 336-6224.

Sincerely,

JJF FOR J.J. FERRARO

JJF/RMM/kvm

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NRC Sr. Resident Inspector

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Mr. C.R. Oberg
Public Utility Commission of Texas

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Radiation Protection Division