



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

April 18, 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-458/96-01 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

This refers to the Fuel Integrity and Reactor Subcriticality inspection conducted by Messrs. Lawrence E. Eilershaw, Paul C. Gage, Charles J. Paulk, and Gregory E. Werner of this office on January 8 through March 5, 1996, at the River Bend Station facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that six examples of violations existed. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report.

The violation involving the fuel bundle misload in the reactor core is of concern because the numerous previous instances of fuel bundle misorientations or misloading did not result in management oversight adequate to prevent this occurrence. Our concern is further heightened in that there were also instances of mishandling in the spent fuel pool (that resulted in damage to a fuel bundle) and the refueling cavity (that resulted in the dragging of a double blade guide). These observations and findings show weaknesses in your preparation for, and execution of, refueling activities associated with Refueling Outage 6.

The violation involving the failure to ensure that design basis requirements were implemented for the spent fuel pool and reactor cavity pneumatic gate seals is of continuing concern. We request that, as you develop your corrective actions to this violation, you consider whether other design bases requirements have been overlooked.

In addition, your staff identified several performance shortcomings. First, they identified that fuel receipt inspection was improperly performed by a River Bend Station fuel inspector, and that this was in violation of Technical Specification 5.4.1.a. Second, they noted that seven testable check valves

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had not been tested in accordance with ASME Section XI requirements. This was the result of an inadequate surveillance test procedure, a violation of Criterion V of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50. These violations are being treated as noncited violations, consistent with Section VII.B.1 of the NRC Enforcement Policy. Specifically, the violations were identified by the River Bend staff, and prompt and effective corrective actions were implemented.

As discussed at the exit meeting, we request that a management meeting be held in our Arlington office within the next 90 days. During this meeting, we request that you discuss: (1) your assessment of the River Bend Station activities; and, (2) your plans to ensure that management expectations related to fuel handling are assimilated by your staff. Our inspection findings were that workers did not promptly bring potential safety issues to management's attention. Therefore, we request that you discuss the apparent complacency of employees to utilize the corrective action reporting system, especially in light of the frequent failure of personnel to initiate condition reports for items lost in the suppression pool.

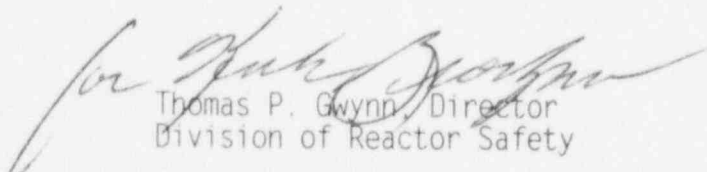
You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas P. Gwynn, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Docket: 50-458  
License: NPF-47

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report  
50-458/96-01 w/attachments

cc w/enclosures:

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ATTN: Executive Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer  
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Entergy Operations, Inc.  
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Entergy Operations, Inc.  
ATTN: Director - Nuclear Safety  
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The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub  
Attorney General  
P.O. Box 94095  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

President of West Feliciana  
Police Jury  
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St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Cajun Electric Power Coop. Inc.  
ATTN: Larry G. Johnson, Director  
Systems Engineering  
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P.O. Box 15540  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70895

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

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)  
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)  
 E-Mail report to M. Davis (MJD1)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan	Resident Inspector
Branch Chief (DRP/D)	Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)
Project Engineer (DRP/D)	Senior Resident Inspector (Grand Gulf)
MIS System	DRS-PSB
RIV File	Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
Senior Resident Inspector (Cooper)	S. Wu (NRR/DSSA/SRXB, OWFN 8E23)

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