

Mr. John R. McGaha, Jr.
Vice President - Operations
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River Bend Station
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

May 20, 1996

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - GENERIC LETTER 95-07, "PRESSURE LOCKING AND THERMAL BINDING OF SAFETY-RELATED POWER-OPERATED GATE VALVES," RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. M93511)

Dear Mr. McGaha:

On August 17, 1995, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves," to request that licensees take actions to ensure that safety-related power-operated gate valves that are susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding are capable of performing their safety functions. The NRC staff is reviewing and evaluating your response to GL 95-07. Additional information, as discussed in the enclosure, is requested in order for the staff to complete its review. We request that you respond within 30 days.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:
David L. Wigginton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Wigginton".

David L. Wigginton, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Mr. John R. McGaha
Entergy Operations, Inc.

River Bend Station

cc:

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1, RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 95-07, "PRESSURE
LOCKING AND THERMAL BINDING OF SAFETY-RELATED POWER-OPERATED GATE VALVES"

1. In Attachment 1 to Generic Letter 95-07 (GL), the NRC staff requested that licensees include consideration of the potential for gate valves to undergo pressure locking or thermal binding during surveillance testing. During workshops on GL 95-07 in each Region, the NRC staff stated that, if closing a safety-related power-operated gate valve for test or surveillance defeats the capability of the safety system or train, the licensee should perform one of the following within the scope of GL 95-07:
 1. Verify that the valve is not susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding while closed,
 2. Follow plant technical specifications for the train/system while the valve is closed,
 3. Demonstrate that the actuator has sufficient capacity to overcome these phenomena, or
 4. Make appropriate hardware and/or procedural modifications to prevent pressure locking and thermal binding.

The staff stated that normally open, safety-related power-operated gate valves which are closed for test or surveillance but must return to the open position should be evaluated within the scope of GL 95-07. Please discuss if valves which meet this criterion were included in your review, and how potential pressure locking or thermal binding concerns were addressed.

2. Through review of operational experience feedback, the staff is aware of instances where licensees have completed design or procedural modifications to preclude pressure locking or thermal binding which may have had an adverse impact on plant safety due to incomplete or incorrect evaluation of the potential effects of these modifications. Please describe evaluations and training for plant personnel that have been conducted for each design or procedural modification completed to address potential pressure locking or thermal binding concerns.

ENCLOSURE