



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

October 27, 1998

EA 98-478

Randall K. Edington, Vice President - Operations
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-458/98-13

Dear Mr. Edington:

During the weeks of June 8-12, 22-26, and August 24-28, 1998, a corrective action team inspection was conducted at your River Bend Station reactor facility. Following the onsite inspection, additional inoffice inspection was conducted. A telephonic exit meeting with you and your staff was held on October 14, 1998. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

Based on the results of the inspection, four apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy) NUREG-1600, Revision 1. These apparent violations are related to the Division I and II emergency diesel generators, and pertain to issues involving design, operability, corrective action, and testing. Specifically, one apparent violation relates to the failure of design control measures to adequately verify or check that the safety-related diesel generator control air instrument and controls systems remained functional during a loss-of-offsite-power event. A second apparent violation pertains to the inoperability of the Division I and II diesel generators. A third apparent violation relates to a failure to document, report, and promptly correct a significant condition adverse to quality. A fourth apparent violation pertains to a failure of preoperational and operational testing to assure that the diesel generators would perform satisfactorily in service.

An open predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for November 23, 1998, at 12:30 p.m. in the Region IV office. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that violations have occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violations sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations described in the enclosed report may change as a result of further NRC review.

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During the predecisional enforcement conference, we would like you to address the missed opportunities to identify the apparent violations related to the emergency diesel generators, which are described in Section E1.1.b.1 of the enclosed report. Additionally, with respect to the apparent violation of Technical Specification 3.8.1b involving Division I and II emergency diesel generator operability, we would like you at the meeting to generally address the impact of Division III emergency diesel generator out-of-service conditions, and in particular, those instances when restoration of the Division III emergency diesel generator, should it have been needed, would have been prolonged.

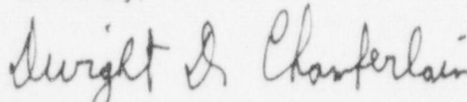
In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violations, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

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

Sincerely,


for Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-458
License No.: NPF-47

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-458/98-13

cc w/enclosure:
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Louisiana Radiation Protection Division
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E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
 E-Mail report to D. Lange (DJL)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
 E-Mail report to Richard Correia, (RPC)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator	Resident Inspector
DRP Director	DRS-PSB
Branch Chief (DRP/C)	MIS System
Project Engineer (DRP/C)	RIV File
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)	
OE:EA File	
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LEEIlershaw/lmb*	JEWhittemore*	GReplogle*	DAPowers*	GSanborn*	CMarschall	ATHowey III	<i>[Signature]</i>
10/15/98	10/16/98	10/21/98	10/19/98	10/19/98	10/19/98 <i>Sm</i>	10/19/98	

*previously concurred

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
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Regional Administrator
 DRP Director
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 OE:EA File
 MVasquez

Resident Inspector
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LEEllershaw/lmb*	JEWhittemore*	GReplogle*	DAPowers*	GSanborn*	CMarschall	ATHowe III	<i>[Signature]</i>
10/15/98	10/16/98	10/21/98	10/19/98	10/19/98	10/21/98 <i>[Signature]</i>	10/21/98	

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