



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

SEP 26 1997

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-458/97-013 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. McGaha:

An NRC inspection was conducted July 20 through August 30, 1997, at your River Bend Station reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, the conduct of activities at the River Bend Station facility was, generally, characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering and maintenance practices, and good radiation protection support. However, there were five violations of NRC requirements which were identified.

Two of the violations identified in the inspection report were of sufficient concern to the NRC to bring to your attention. The first violation of concern was associated with operators failing to properly position and independently verify an emergency diesel generator neutral breaker. Our concern is that this is a continuation of less than acceptable performance in the area of configuration control. The second violation of concern was associated with your combustible material controls program; specifically, personnel left untreated transient combustible materials unattended in a safety-related area. Our concern is that a similar issue had recently been identified in the NRC fire protection functional inspection.

Three additional violations are noted in this report. The first is associated with an engineering evaluation of safety-relief valves that was not performed, as required by procedure, prior to plant restart from a forced outage. This problem was compounded by the fact that the Facility Review Committee, in reviewing the posttrip review checklist, failed to challenge the weak basis for this evaluation being unnecessary. The second violation is associated with personnel failing to adhere to your foreign material controls procedures for activities above the suppression pool. The third violation pertains to a safety-related watertight door that was blocked open contrary to the facility's design basis.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the

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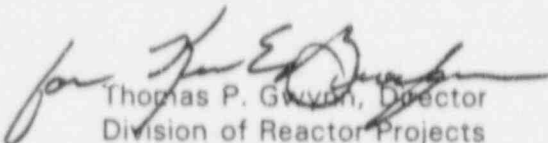


instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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.

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 Projects

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

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-458/97-013

cc w/enclosures:

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E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
 E-Mail report to T. Hiltz (TGH)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
 E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
 E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator	Senior Resident Inspector (Grand Gulf)
DRP Director	DRS-PSB
Branch Chief (DRP/C)	MIS System
Project Engineer (DRP/C)	RIV File
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)	Resident Inspector

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9/17/97		9/17/97	9/19/97	9/20/97		

*previously concurred

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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