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

December 15, 1999

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

**SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION REGARDING GENERIC LETTER 96-05 PROGRAM AT RIVER
BEND STATION (TAC NO. M97093)**

Dear Mr. Edington:

On September 18, 1996, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 96-05, "Periodic Verification of Design-Basis Capability of Safety-Related Power-Operated Valves," to request that nuclear power plant licensees establish a program, or ensure the effectiveness of the current program, to verify on a periodic basis that safety-related motor-operated valves (MOVs) continue to be capable of performing their safety functions within the current licensing basis of the facility.

In a letter dated March 17, 1997, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI), submitted a response to GL 96-05 indicating its intent to implement the provisions of a Joint Owners Group (JOG) Program on MOV Periodic Verification. The NRC staff has encouraged licensees to participate in the industry-wide JOG program to provide a benefit in reactor safety by sharing expertise and information on MOV performance and to increase the efficiency of GL 96-05 activities at nuclear plants. Licensee participation in the JOG program also minimizes the amount of information necessary for the NRC staff to review each licensee's response to GL 96-05.

The Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) submitted Revision 2 to General Electric Topical Report NEDC-32719 concerning the MOV Periodic Verification JOG Program on July 30, 1997. The NRC staff subsequently completed its safety evaluation on October 30, 1997, concluding that the JOG program is an acceptable industry-wide response to GL 96-05, with certain conditions and limitations. In a letter from EOI's Mr. Michael R. Kansler, dated January 11, 1999, River Bend Station's (RBS) commitment was updated to include incorporation of Revision 2 to the JOG Program topical report in its MOV program.

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Randall K. Edington

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December 15, 1999

The NRC staff requires only a limited amount of additional information in order to complete its GL 96-05 review for RBS. Therefore, enclosed is a request for additional information regarding the RBS GL 96-05 program. Based upon discussions with members of your staff, it is requested that your response be provided within 60 days from receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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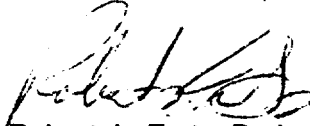
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Sincerely,



Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
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cc w/encl: See next page

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**REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RESPONSE OF
RIVER BEND STATION TO GENERIC LETTER 96-05**

1. In Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Inspection Report No. 50-458/96-22, the NRC staff closed its review of the motor-operated valve (MOV) program implemented at River Bend Station (River Bend) in response to Generic Letter (GL) 89-10, "Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valve Testing And Surveillance." In the inspection report, the NRC staff discussed certain aspects of the licensee's MOV program to be addressed over the long term. For example, the inspectors noted that (1) the licensee had not established a margin for valve degradation, (2) valves E22-MOVF004 (high pressure core spray injection valve) and G33-MOVF039 (reactor water cleanup return containment isolation valve) would be considered for future margin enhancement, and (3) the licensee's MOV trending program was missing some common valve performance elements that the licensee agreed to consider for addition to the program scope. The licensee should describe the actions taken to address the specific long-term aspects of the MOV program at River Bend noted in the NRC inspection report.
2. The Joint Owners Group (JOG) program specifies that the methodology and discrimination criteria for ranking MOVs according to their safety significance are the responsibility of each participating licensee. In its letter dated March 17, 1997, the licensee stated that static diagnostic testing would be based, in part, on an expert review and River Bend's Probabilistic Safety Assessment. As River Bend is a boiling water reactor (BWR) nuclear plant, is the licensee applying the BWR Owners Group (BWROG) methodology for ranking MOVs based on their safety significance as described in BWROG Topical Report NEDC-32264 and the NRC safety evaluation dated February 27, 1996? If not, the licensee should describe the methodology used for risk ranking MOVs at River Bend in more detail.
3. The JOG program focuses on the potential age-related increase in the thrust or torque required to operate valves under their design-basis conditions. In the NRC safety evaluation for the JOG program, dated October 30, 1997, the NRC staff specified that licensees are responsible for addressing the thrust or torque delivered by the MOV motor actuator and its potential degradation. The licensee should describe the plan at River Bend for ensuring adequate ac and dc MOV motor actuator output capability, including consideration of recent guidance in Limitorque Technical Update 98-01 and its Supplement 1.

ENCLOSURE