



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

SEP 26 2000

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

Dear Mr. Edington:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-458/00-11

Thank you for your letter of September 21, 2000, in response to our August 23, 2000, letter and Notice of Violation concerning noncompliance regarding the inspection of portable fire extinguishers located in high radiation areas. We have reviewed your reply and find it responsive to the concerns raised in our Notice of Violation. We will review the implementation of your corrective actions during a future inspection to determine that full compliance has been achieved and will be maintained.

Sincerely,

William D. Johnson, Chief
Project Branch B
Division of Reactor Projects

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

cc:
Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Vice President
Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

General Manager
Plant Operations
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Director - Nuclear Safety
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
P.O. Box 651
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esq.
Winston & Strawn
1401 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Manager - Licensing
River Bend Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 220
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub
Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9005

H. Anne Plettinger
3456 Villa Rose Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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President
West Feliciana Parish Police Jury
P.O. Box 1921
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Ronald Wascom, Administrator
and State Liaison Officer
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 82135
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884-2135

Electronic distribution from ADAMS by RIV:

Regional Administrator (**EWM**)

DRP Director (**KEB**)

DRS Director (**ATH**)

Senior Resident Inspector (**TWP**)

Branch Chief, DRP/B (**WDJ**)

Senior Project Engineer, DRP/B (**RAK1**)

Branch Chief, DRP/TSS (**LAY**)

RITS Coordinator (**NBH**)

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RIV:C:DRP/B				
WDJohnson;df				
9/26/00				

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T=Telephone

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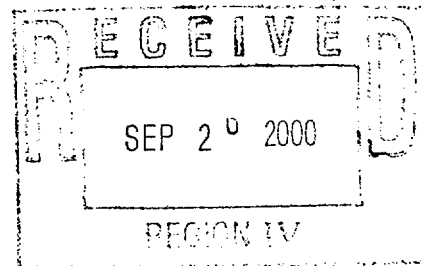


Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 U.S. Highway 61
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775
Tel 225 336 6225
Fax 225 635 5068

Rick J. King
Director
Nuclear Safety Assurance

September 21, 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001



Subject: Response to Notice of Violation in IR 50-458/00-11, EA-00-196
River Bend Station - Unit I
License No. NPF-47
Docket No. 50-458

File Nos.: G9.5, G15.4.1

RBG-45500

RBF1-00-0205

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The NRC's staff letter of August 23, 2000, addressing Notice of Violation 50-458/00-11, EA-00-196 requested that Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) submit to NRC the corrective actions taken to correct the specific violation, results achieved, the actions to prevent recurrence and date when compliance will be achieved within thirty days of the letter's receipt.

The subject of Notice of Violation 50-458/00-11, EA-00-196 concerned a noncompliance regarding the inspection of portable fire extinguishers located in high radiation areas.

Following the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, Entergy Operations, Inc. is submitting its response to the Notice of Violation as Attachment 1 to this letter. Attachment 2 contains a list of commitments associated with this response.

September 21, 2000

Reply to Notice of Violation 50-458/00-11, EA 00-196

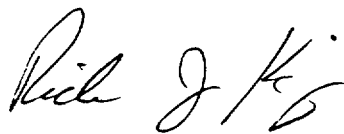
RBG-45500

RBF1-00-0205

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Should you have any questions regarding the attached information, please contact Mr. Robert Biggs of my staff at (225) 381- 3731.

Sincerely,



RJK/rlb

Attachment

cc:

U. S Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011

NRC Sr. Resident Inspector
P.O. Box 1050
St. Francisville, LA 70775

NRR Project Manager, J. Harold
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
M/S O 7D1
Washington, D.C. 20555

Director Office of Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

ATTACHMENT 1
REPLY TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION 50-458/00-11, EA 00-196
Page 1 of 3

Violation:

During a NRC inspection conducted between June 25, 2000 and August 5, 2000, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. See below:

Facility Operating License No. NPF-47, Attachment 4, "Fire Protection Program Requirements," License Condition 1, specified, in part, that the licensee shall implement and maintain in effect all provisions of the approved fire protection program as described in the Updated Safety Analysis Report.

Updated Safety Analysis Report Sections 9.5.1.2.11, "Portable Extinguishers." And 9A.3.6.6, "Portable Extinguishers," specified that portable fire extinguishers are provided utilizing the guidance from National Fire Protection Association Standard 10, "Portable Fire Extinguishers".

National Fire Protection Association Standard 10, Section 4-3.1, "Frequency," specified that fire extinguishers shall be inspected when initially placed in service and thereafter at approximately 30-day intervals.

Contrary to the above, between June, 1999, and March, 2000, 17 portable fire extinguishers located in high radiation areas in the reactor core isolation cooling pump room, radioactive waste building and turbine building, were not inspected at 30-day intervals. In addition, the licensee did not inspect the 17 portable fire extinguishers at 30-day intervals between March 2000 and July 5, 2000, even though they had been informed of the noncompliance with fire protection program requirements on April 10, 2000, and at an exit meeting on May 9, 2000.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I).

ATTACHMENT 1
REPLY TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION 50-458/00-11, EA 00-196
Page 2 of 3

Reason for the Violation:

The Senior Resident Inspector identified that fire extinguishers in high radiation areas were not being tested as required by the Updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR) using the guidance of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 10. RBS' Fire Protection Engineer was notified of this apparent noncompliance. A condition report was generated to identify and investigate the issue. Based on their understanding of the USAR statements, RBS Fire Protection personnel had applied this statement to the location and placement of fire extinguishers only and not to the testing and maintenance. The engineers did not fully understand this to constitute a noncompliance with the requirements of the USAR. Instead, it was believed to be a situation that required clarification of the use of the "guidance" in NFPA standards as utilized in the USAR. About two months later, the senior resident inspector identified that the extinguishers still had not been tested.

When RBS identified the condition within the station's corrective action program, the primary focus of the Fire Protection Engineer was to ensure that the changes to the fire extinguisher maintenance program would be well thought out and support both ALARA and compliance requirements. With this focus in mind, corrective actions were inadvertently delayed due to a misunderstanding by the site individuals involved of the noncompliance status.

Corrective actions:

Required testing has been conducted on all 17 fire extinguishers. Additionally, a review is being performed of fire protection surveillance testing to identify any other fire protection equipment that may have been excluded from the normal testing frequency based on accessibility considerations (high radiation levels). This review will include items such as fire barriers, fire detectors, fire hose stations and sprinklers.

ATTACHMENT 1
REPLY TO NOTICE OF VIOLATION 50-458/00-11, EA 00-196
Page 3 of 3

Actions to Prevent Further Violations:

EOI acted to address the cause of untimely corrective action as identified in this notice of violation. Management has clearly communicated expectations regarding restoration of compliance and has added additional barriers to help preclude repetition such as, improving the communication of issues during interfaces with the NRC and tracking them internally.

EOI is reviewing fire protection system testing to determine if other areas require additional action to ensure compliance with license basis documents.

Date when full compliance will be achieved:

Compliance was restored on July 12, 2000 when all 17 fire extinguishers had been checked as required by the maintenance department.

ATTACHMENT 2
COMMITMENT IDENTIFICATION FORM
50-458/00-11, EA-00-196
Page 1 of 1

Violation 50/458/00-11, EA 00-196

COMMITMENT	ONE- TIME ACTION	CONTINUING COMPLIANCE
Engineering department is reviewing fire protection system testing to determine if other areas require additional actions to ensure compliance with license basis documents.	X	