



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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March 2, 2005

Paul D. Hinnenkamp
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 US Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - RIVER BEND STATION
(REPORT 05000458/2005001)

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

On February 2, 2005, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of River Bend Station. The end-of-cycle review for River Bend Station involved the participation of the reactor technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2004. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate end-of-cycle performance review letter designated and marked as "Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390" will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, River Bend Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). However, as a result of the continuous review of licensee performance by NRC staff, we concluded that the Unplanned Scrams per 7000 Critical Hours PI has crossed the threshold from Green to White following a reactor scram that occurred on January 15, 2005. Accordingly, we plan to implement Supplemental Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," after you have informed us that your evaluation is complete. The purpose of this supplemental inspection is to provide assurance that the root causes and contributing causes of risk significant performance issues are understood, the extent of cause and condition are identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence.

Additionally, the reactor scrams of August 15 and October 1, 2004, are the subject of review under the Reactor Oversight Process PI Frequently Asked Question process for inclusion under the Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal PI. Depending on the outcome of this review, the Scrams with Loss of Normal Heat Removal PI could cross the Green to White threshold retroactive to the fourth quarter of 2004. If that occurs, a 95002 Supplemental Inspection, "Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone Or Any Three White Inputs In a Strategic Performance Area," will be conducted in accordance with the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC Action Matrix in lieu of a 95001 Supplemental Inspection.

The NRC issued a White inspection finding and associated Notice of Violation in a letter to you dated December 29, 2003. The issue was initially discussed in NRC Inspection Report 05000458/2002007, dated February 7, 2003. It was also discussed in our annual assessment letter, dated March 3, 2004. This finding involved the failure to properly lock open a valve in the condensate system that resulted in a loss of feedwater flow following a reactor scram in September 2002. A supplemental inspection utilizing Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," was performed February 23-27, 2004, to assess the adequacy of your evaluation and to review the corrective actions you have taken for this risk-significant performance issue. Upon completion of the inspection, a Regulatory Performance Meeting was conducted as prescribed in NRC Manual Chapter 0305 to discuss the event, root causes, and corrective actions. The supplemental inspection concluded that your staff performed a comprehensive evaluation of the event. The corrective actions taken to address the issues and to prevent recurrence were satisfactory and have been completed.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2006. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact David N. Graves at (817) 860-8141 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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SISP Review Completed: dng ADAMS: / Yes G No Initials: dng
 / Publicly Available G Non-Publicly Available G Sensitive / Non-Sensitive

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RIV:C:DRP/C	D:DRS	D:DRP		
DNGGraves;df	DDChamberlain	ATHowell III		
/RA/	/RA/	/RA/		
2/28/05	2/25/05	2/28/05		

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River Bend
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/04/2005 - 09/30/2006

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	ALARA2 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS 2		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/28/2005	03/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
	EB17B - PERMANENT PLANT MODS		4			
1	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		03/07/2005	03/11/2005	Baseline Inspections
	OB-EP2 - EMERG PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM INSPECTION		2			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		06/13/2005	06/17/2005	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		06/13/2005	06/17/2005	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/13/2005	06/17/2005	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		06/13/2005	06/17/2005	Baseline Inspections
	ACRSA - ACCESS CONTROL TO RAD SIGNIFICANT AREAS		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		06/20/2005	06/24/2005	Baseline Inspections
	ALARA3 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/26/2005	09/30/2005	Baseline Inspections
	PEB-52 - RBS PIR INSPECTION		5			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		10/24/2005	10/28/2005	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		11/14/2005	11/18/2005	Baseline Inspections
	RP TEAM - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM INSPECTION		4			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		10/31/2005	11/04/2005	Baseline Inspections
	ACRSA - ACCESS CONTROL TO RAD SIGNIFICANT AREAS		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/20/2006	03/24/2006	Baseline Inspections
	EB-08G - IN SERVICE INSPECTION (BOILER)		1			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		03/20/2006	03/24/2006	Baseline Inspections
	OB-RQ - REQUALIFICATION INSP		3			
1	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		04/17/2006	04/21/2006	Baseline Inspections
	EB21 - ENG-SSD&PC		5			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		06/05/2006	06/09/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		06/05/2006	06/09/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		06/19/2006	06/23/2006	Baseline Inspections
	PEB - MAINTENANCE RULE BIENNIAL		1			
1	IP 711112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		06/26/2006	06/30/2006	Baseline Inspections
	ALARA1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/10/2006	07/14/2006	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

River Bend
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/04/2005 - 09/30/2006

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	EP1	- EMERG PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE	3			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		08/14/2006	08/18/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		08/14/2006	08/18/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/14/2006	08/18/2006	Baseline Inspections