

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
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March 2, 2007

Joseph E. Venable  
Vice President of Operations  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
River Bend Station  
5485 US Highway 61N  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - RIVER BEND STATION  
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000458/2007001)

Dear Mr. Venable:

On February 6, 2007, the NRC staff completed its performance review of River Bend Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2006. 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.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security-Related Information" 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, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, 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 performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green).

The NRC staff has identified a substantive crosscutting issue in the human performance area at River Bend Station. There were 16 Green findings with crosscutting aspects in the human performance area. Crosscutting themes were identified in the following area components: (1) Work Practices (instances of ineffective human error prevention techniques), and (2) Resources (instances of inadequate procedures and instructions). Seven Green findings were related to a theme of ineffective human error prevention techniques affecting the Mitigating Systems, Occupational Radiation Safety, and Barrier Integrity cornerstones. Examples include: a failure to evaluate radiological conditions; instances of failing to follow procedures resulting in consequential plant impacts, such as a substantial steam leak in containment resulting from the failure to adequately assemble a low pressure coolant injection valve; and the failure of operators to perform and verify proper control room switch alignment during the response to a plant scram, which further impacted the plant. To address problems in this area, your staff developed a performance improvement plan at the end of 2006, which

included a focus area for improvement specifically requiring more on-shift supervisory observations of operations and maintenance activities. These actions have not yet proven effective in substantially mitigating this crosscutting theme for a sustained period of time. As a result, this substantive crosscutting issue will remain open until we determine, through focused baseline inspections, that corrective actions implemented in accordance with your improvement plan have resulted in improved performance.

With respect to the human performance component of resources specifically related to the aspect of procedure and work instruction adequacy, we determined that your staff appropriately recognized the declining trend, evaluated the declining trend in your corrective action program, performed a common cause analysis, established and implemented specific corrective actions, and ensured that measures were in place to perform effectiveness reviews. As of this time, we have concluded that the scope of your efforts to address this trend is appropriate.

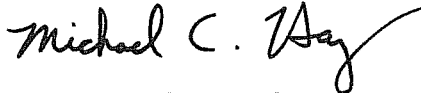
In our midcycle assessment letter dated August 31, 2006 (ADAMS Reference ML06243066), we advised you of a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution involving the aspect of the identification of issues. During this assessment period there were six Green findings involving the problem identification and resolution component of corrective action affecting the Mitigating Systems and Initiating Events cornerstones. Examples included: a failure to recognize abnormal instrument noise and spiking conditions resulting in repetitive inadvertent isolations of reactor core isolation cooling system, a failure to promptly identify a nonconforming condition affecting a chart strip recorder following the chart paper mechanism falling on a control panel and causing an automatic reactor scram, and the failure to identify that a power supply breaker to the Division III engineered safety features bus was not properly racked in for a period of approximately 24 days following maintenance activities. To address problems in this area, your staff began implementing performance improvement measures in the latter part of the assessment period. While your performance measures indicate some increase in the number of problems being entered into your corrective action program, we understand your effectiveness review is not scheduled for completion until later in 2007. This substantive crosscutting issue will remain open until we determine, through focused baseline inspections, that corrective actions implemented in accordance with your improvement plan have resulted in sustained improvement.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through September 30, 2008. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well 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.

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 me at (817) 860-8144 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Hay, Chief  
Project Branch C  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-458  
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:  
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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River Bend

Inspection / Activity Plan  
 01/01/2007 - 09/30/2008

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
1	<b>RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		01/08/2007	01/12/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		01/08/2007	01/12/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		01/08/2007	01/12/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION</b>		4			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		01/29/2007	02/02/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		02/12/2007	02/16/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>EB2-52B - PIR INSPECTION</b>		5			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/09/2007	04/13/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/23/2007	04/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>EB1-2/17 - 50.59 &amp; PERMANENT PLANT MODS</b>		4			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		04/16/2007	04/20/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		04/16/2007	04/20/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>EP2 - EP PROGRAM</b>		1			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		05/14/2007	05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		05/14/2007	05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		05/14/2007	05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		05/14/2007	05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		05/14/2007	05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>EXAM - INITIAL EXAM</b>		4			
1	X02348	RIVER BEND - INITIAL EXAM (06/07)		05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Not Applicable
1	X02348	RIVER BEND - INITIAL EXAM (06/07)		06/11/2007	06/22/2007	Not Applicable
1	<b>RP TEAM - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM</b>		5			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		07/09/2007	07/13/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/09/2007	07/13/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		07/09/2007	07/13/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control F		07/09/2007	07/13/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>EB1-08G - ISI</b>		1			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>RP-ORS4 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ACCESS</b>		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/22/2007	10/26/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/22/2007	10/26/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/22/2007	10/26/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	<b>RP-ORS5 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ALARA</b>		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		12/10/2007	12/14/2007	Baseline Inspections

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

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>RP-ORS5 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ALARA</b>		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		12/10/2007	12/14/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		12/10/2007	12/14/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP-ORS1 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ACCESS</b>		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/21/2008	04/25/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/21/2008	04/25/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		04/21/2008	04/25/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		04/21/2008	04/25/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-07B - BIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION</b>		1			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		05/12/2008	05/16/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1-21 - CDBI</b>		5			
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		06/02/2008	06/06/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		07/16/2008	07/27/2008	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EP1 - EP EXERCISE</b>		3			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		06/09/2008	06/13/2008	Baseline Inspections

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

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SUNSI Review Completed:   MCH   ADAMS:  Yes  No Initials:   MCH    
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