



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

March 4, 2014

Mr. Eric W. Olson
Site Vice President
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
5485 U.S. Highway 61N
St. Francisville, LA 70775

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR THE RIVER BEND STATION
(REPORT 05000458/2013001)**

Dear Mr. Olson:

On February 11, 2014, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of the River Bend Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, the River Bend Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at the River Bend Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

In our assessment letter (ML120610414) dated March 5, 2012, the NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the Safety Conscious Work Environment component of Environment for Raising Concerns. This theme resulted from the issuance of a Confirmatory Order dated August 22, 2011, that involved discrimination. The cross-cutting aspect was related to behavior and actions that encourage free flow of information related to raising nuclear safety issues such that personnel raise nuclear safety issues without fear of retaliation [S.1(a)]. At that time, the NRC determined that a substantive cross-cutting issue did not exist because the NRC did not have concerns with the actions you committed to take to address the theme. The NRC will continue to monitor your staff's effort and progress in addressing the theme until the theme criteria are no longer met.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2015. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for

the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

Additionally, an NRC audit of licensee efforts towards compliance with Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," is ongoing. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate mitigating strategies as described in licensee submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for the first unit at each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

As a result of the Safety Culture Common Language Initiative, the terminology and coding of cross-cutting aspects were revised effective January 1, 2014. New cross-cutting aspects will be coded in accordance with the latest revision to NRC Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0310, dated December 19, 2013. Cross-cutting aspects identified in the last six months of 2013 using the previous terminology will be converted to the revised language in accordance with the cross-reference in IMC 0310. The revised cross-cutting aspects will be evaluated for cross-cutting themes and potential substantive cross-cutting issues in accordance with IMC 0305 starting with the calendar year 2014 mid-cycle assessment.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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).

Please contact me at 817 200-1144 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Donald B. Allen, Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure: Electronic Distribution

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Publicly Available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sens. Type Initials	DBA
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