



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

March 3, 2004

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
(NRC REPORT 05000458/2004001)**

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

On February 4, 2004, 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 all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2003. 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.

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 Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on one finding of low to moderate safety significance (White) in the mitigating systems cornerstone.

The White finding involved a failure to properly secure a valve in the condensate system that resulted in a loss of feedwater flow following a reactor scram in September 2002. Corrective actions, including procedural changes and additional training, were implemented by your staff following the event. NRC staff conducted a special inspection following occurrence of the event in 2002, and we conducted a supplemental inspection in February 2004. On the basis of our reviews conducted to date, we have concluded that you have adequately addressed the root causes and have implemented appropriate corrective actions.

As you are aware, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2004, we plan to continue inspections of Order implementation combined with newly developed portions of the security baseline inspection program. The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2005. In addition to the baseline

inspections listed in the enclosure, NRC will conduct inspections on your independent spent fuel storage facility as work progresses and construction and operational milestones are achieved. 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 12 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/ by MASatorius for

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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C:DRP/B	D:DRS	D:DRP		
DNGraves;df	DDChamberlain	ATHowell		
<i>/RA/</i>	<i>/RA/</i>	<i>MASatorius for</i>		
2/23/04	2/26/04	3/3/04		

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River Bend
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2004 - 10/01/2005

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	ALARA1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/22/2004	03/26/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-S1 - AA-AC-PI-FFD		2			
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization		03/22/2004	03/26/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control		03/22/2004	03/26/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113008	Fitness For Duty Program		03/22/2004	03/26/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/22/2004	03/26/2004	Baseline Inspections
	EB-21/02 - SSD&PCI AND 50.59		7			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		05/03/2004	05/07/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		05/03/2004	05/07/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		05/17/2004	05/21/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OB-RQ - REQUALIFICATION EXAM		4			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		06/21/2004	06/25/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OB-EP2 - EP EXERCISE		2			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		06/07/2004	06/11/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		06/07/2004	06/11/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		06/07/2004	06/11/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PEB-12B - MAINTENANCE EFFECTIVENESS		1			
1	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		06/14/2004	06/18/2004	Baseline Inspections
	OB-IN EX - OB - INITIAL EXAMINATION		7			
1	X02267	RIVER BEND (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		09/06/2004	09/10/2004	Not Applicable
1	X02267	RIVER BEND (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Not Applicable
	EB-08G - INSERVICE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES		1			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		10/25/2004	10/29/2004	Baseline Inspections
	ACCESSPI - ACRSA/PIV		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/25/2004	10/29/2004	Baseline Inspections
	PEB-07B - HX & HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE TESTING		2			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		11/29/2004	12/03/2004	Baseline Inspections
	ALARA2 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS 2		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		01/10/2005	01/14/2005	Baseline Inspections
	EB17B - PERMANENT PLANT MODS		2			
1	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		03/07/2005	03/11/2005	Baseline Inspections
	PEB-52 - RBS PIR INSPECTION		2			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		06/06/2005	06/10/2005	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
03/01/2004 - 10/01/2005

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	PEB-52	- RBS PIR INSPECTION	2			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		06/20/2005	06/24/2005	Baseline Inspections
	OB-EP2	- EMERG PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM INSPECTION	1			
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 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		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

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.