



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

May 29, 2001

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

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - RIVER BEND STATION
(REPORT 50-458/01-01)**

Dear Mr. Edington:

On May 7, 2001, 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 April 2, 2000, to March 31, 2001. 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 which 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, 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 PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through May 31, 2002.

In November 2000, the staff identified potential adverse trends in two cross-cutting areas. A declining human performance trend was identified with failure of personnel to adhere to plant procedural requirements or to maintain a questioning attitude as common elements. Additionally, a declining problem identification and resolution trend was identified with not implementing timely corrective actions as the common element. Subsequent baseline inspections noted that actions were being taken to improve human performance and that corrective actions were generally implemented in a timely manner. Continuation of the two potential adverse trends has not been observed. These areas will continue to be monitored with the baseline inspection program.

The enclosure details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. 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.

For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1 through December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e., the second, third, and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the third calendar quarter (July 1 through September 30) in lieu of a midcycle review. The impact on the inspection plan, which is included as an enclosure, is minimal. Activities planned for the transition cycle represent only 60-80 percent of those activities that would be accomplished during a typical 12-month inspection and assessment cycle.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.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) 860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Johnson, Chief
Project Branch B
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Docket: 50-458
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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 J. Isom, NRR (**JAI**)
RidsNrrDipmlipb

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RIV:SPE:DRP/B	C:DRP/B	D:DRS	D:DRP	OE:NRR/IIPB
RAKopriva;df	WDJohnson	ATHowell	KEBrockman	JAlsom
N/A	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	E-WDJohnson for
5/ /01	5/14/01	5/18/01	5/24/01	5/21/01

C:DRP/B				
Signature				
WDJohnson				
5/29/01				

River Bend
Inspection / Activity Plan
06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
PBB-Q1 - RI INSPECTION Q1			1			
1	IP 7111104	Equipment Alignment (Quarterly)		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111104S	Equipment Alignment		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105Q	Fire Protection		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111106	Flood Protection Measures		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111107A	Heat Sink Performance		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111111Q	Licensed Operator Requalification		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111112Q	Maintenance Rule Implementation		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111113	Maintenance Risk Assessments & Emergent Work Evaluation		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111115	Operability Evaluations		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111119	Post Maintenance Testing		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111122	Surveillance Testing		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/01/2001	06/23/2001	Baseline Inspections
PBB-Q2 - RI INSPECTION Q2			1			
1	IP 7111101	Adverse Weather Protection		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111104	Equipment Alignment (Quarterly)		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105Q	Fire Protection		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111106	Flood Protection Measures		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111111Q	Licensed Operator Requalification		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111112Q	Maintenance Rule Implementation		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111113	Maintenance Risk Assessments & Emergent Work Evaluation		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111115	Operability Evaluations		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111116	Operator Workarounds		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111119	Post Maintenance Testing		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111120	Refueling and Outage Activities		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111122	Surveillance Testing		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		06/24/2001	09/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
OB-RQ - REQUAL INSP			2			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		06/25/2001	06/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
PSB-RP1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS (3)			1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/24/2001	09/28/2001	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
06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	EMB - ISI		3			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		10/01/2001	10/05/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PBB-Q3 - RI INSPECTION Q3		1			
1	IP 7111101	Adverse Weather Protection		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111104	Equipment Alignment (Quarterly)		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111104S	Equipment Alignment		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105A	Fire Protection		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105Q	Fire Protection		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111106	Flood Protection Measures		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111111Q	Licensed Operator Requalification		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111112Q	Maintenance Rule Implementation		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111113	Maintenance Risk Assessments & Emergent Work Evaluation		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111115	Operability Evaluations		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111119	Post Maintenance Testing		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111120	Refueling and Outage Activities		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111122	Surveillance Testing		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/30/2001	12/29/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP2 - ACCESS CONTROL TO RAD SIGN AREAS & PIV		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/01/2001	10/05/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/01/2001	10/05/2001	Baseline Inspections
	OB-PIR - PROBLEM ID INSP		3			
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		11/26/2001	12/07/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP3 - RAD MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION		1			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		12/17/2001	12/21/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - 50.59		1			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		01/07/2002	01/11/2002	Baseline Inspections
	PBB-Q1 - RI REPORT Q1		2			
1	IP 7111101	Adverse Weather Protection		12/30/2001	03/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-S1 - ACCESS AUTH/CONTROL, SEC PLAN & PIV		1			
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		01/21/2002	01/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizator		01/21/2002	01/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113004	Security Plan Changes		01/21/2002	01/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		01/21/2002	01/25/2002	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
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River Bend
Inspection / Activity Plan
06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	PSB-RP4 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS (4)		2			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/25/2002	03/01/2002	Baseline Inspections
	PBB-Q2 - RI REPORT Q2		2			
1	IP 7111101	Adverse Weather Protection		03/31/2002	06/29/2002	Baseline Inspections

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