



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005**

August 27, 2003

Paul D. Hinnenkamp  
Vice President - Operations  
River Bend Station  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

**SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - RIVER BEND  
STATION**

Dear Mr. Hinnenkamp:

On August 6, 2003, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of River Bend Station. The midcycle 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 first half of the current assessment cycle, 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.

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, the safety significance of the improper securing of a condensate demineralizer bypass valve that resulted in a loss of feedwater flow following a reactor scram is still under review utilizing the Significance Determination Process. We currently plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2004, unless the safety significance of the improper securing of the condensate valve is determined to be greater than very low, in which case our actions will be as specified in NRC's Action Matrix.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. 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 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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

Sincerely,

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David N. Graves, Chief  
Project Branch B  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-458  
License: NPF-47

Enclosure:  
River Bend Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Operating Officer  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 31995  
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

Vice President  
Operations Support  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 31995  
Jackson, Mississippi 39286-1995

General Manager  
Plant Operations  
River Bend Station  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Director - Nuclear Safety  
River Bend Station  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway  
P.O. Box 651  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mark J. Wetterhahn, Esq.  
Winston & Strawn  
1401 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Manager - Licensing  
River Bend Station  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P.O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
State of Louisiana  
P.O. Box 94005  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9005

H. Anne Plettinger  
3456 Villa Rose Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

President  
West Feliciana Parish Police Jury  
P.O. Box 1921  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Michael E. Henry, State Liaison Officer  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Permits Division  
P.O. Box 4313  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

Brian Almon  
Public Utility Commission  
William B. Travis Building  
P.O. Box 13326  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701-3326

Jimmy Bello, President  
Pointe Coupe Parish Police Jury  
P.O. Box 290  
New Roads, Louisiana 70760

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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James Hunt, President  
East Feliciana Parish Police Jury  
P.O. Box 427  
Clinton, Louisiana 70722

Ted Denstel, Parish President  
West Baton Rouge Parish Counsel  
P.O. Box 757  
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767

Burt Babers, President  
West Feliciana Parish Police Jury  
P.O. Box 1921  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

Bobby Simpson, Mayor-President  
Office of the Mayor-President  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
P.O. Box 1471  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Ron Castleman, Regional Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region VI, Federal Center  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, Texas 76201-3698

Jim Brewer  
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer  
Office of the Mayor/President  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
P.O. Box 1471  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Joanne Moreau, Director  
Dept. of Emergency Management  
East Baton Rouge Parish  
P.O. Box 1471  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Charles LeBlanc, Director  
Dept. of Emergency Management  
West Baton Rouge Parish  
P.O. Box 757  
Port Allen, Louisiana 70767

Entergy Operations, Inc.

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Don Ewing, Director  
Dept. of Emergency Management  
Pointe Coupee Parish  
P.O. Box 248  
New Roads, Louisiana 70760

Col. Michael L. Brown, Assistant Director  
Military Department  
Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness  
P.O. Box 44217  
7667 Independence Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Jesse Means, Director  
Dept. of Emergency Management  
West Feliciana Parish  
P.O. Box 1927  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

T. W. Prewitt, Director  
Dept. of Emergency Management  
East Feliciana Parish  
P.O. Box 640  
Jackson, Louisiana 70748

The Honorable William D'Aquila  
Mayor, Town of St. Francisville  
P.O. Box 400  
St. Francisville, Louisiana 70775

**River Bend**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**08/01/2003 - 09/30/2004**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>RP-TM</b>	<b>- RAD SAFETY TEAM</b>	<b>5</b>			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		08/18/2003	08/22/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OB-PIR</b>	<b>- RB PIR INSPECTION</b>	<b>5</b>			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		10/27/2003	11/07/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EMB</b>	<b>- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		02/09/2004	02/13/2004	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		02/23/2004	02/27/2004	Baseline Inspections
	<b>ALARA1</b>	<b>- ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/09/2004	02/13/2004	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EMB</b>	<b>- MAINTENANCE EFFECTIVENESS</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		03/15/2004	03/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
	<b>OB-RQ</b>	<b>- REQUALIFICATION EXAM</b>	<b>3</b>			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		04/05/2004	04/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
	<b>2004022</b>	<b>- SAFETY SYS. DESIGN AND PERF. CAPABILITY</b>	<b>5</b>			
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
	<b>2004023</b>	<b>- CHANGES, TESTS, AND EXPERIMENTS</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		05/17/2004	05/21/2004	Baseline Inspections
	<b>PSB-EP2</b>	<b>- EP EXERCISE</b>	<b>3</b>			
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
	<b>OB</b>	<b>- OB - INITIAL EXAMINATION</b>	<b>4</b>			
1	X02267	RIVER BEND (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		08/30/2004	09/03/2004	Not Applicable
1	X02267	RIVER BEND (09/04) INITIAL EXAM		09/20/2004	09/24/2004	Not Applicable
	<b>2004038</b>	<b>- HX &amp; HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE TESTING</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		09/13/2004	09/17/2004	Baseline Inspections