



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

August 31, 2006

Randall K. Edington, Vice  
President-Nuclear and CNO  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -  
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Edington:

On August 8, 2006, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) for the first half of the calendar year 2006 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. 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 in order for you to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

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.

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 performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility.

In our annual performance assessment letter dated March 2, 2006, we advised you that the substantive crosscutting issue in the area of problem identification and resolution would remain open based on a recurring theme, involving inadequate corrective actions resulting in repetitive problems which impact plant operation. We indicated that despite the extensive focus in this area, consequential plant issues continued to occur. We also noted that your staff had developed a performance improvement plan in the latter part of 2005 to address performance in this area. Based on our review of the inspection results for this current period, the NRC has concluded that this substantive crosscutting issue can be closed. Although the NRC continued to identify inspection findings in the area of problem identification and resolution, we noted improved performance as demonstrated by a reduction in the number of repetitive problems that impacted plant operation. Specifically, we noted improvements in the effectiveness of corrective action to address plant issues, the equipment trending program, and the use of

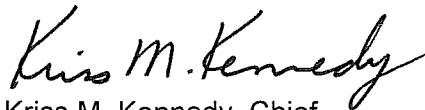
operational experience to identify problems at CNS. As a result, only two NRC inspection findings identified in the first 6 months of 2006 had crosscutting aspects associated with problem identification and resolution. Consequently, no additional focused inspections are planned within this area.

With the exception of inspections related to physical protection, the enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, including Temporary Instructions, scheduled through March 31, 2008. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for the early 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 annual performance 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 the 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,



Kriss M. Kennedy, Chief  
Project Branch C  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-298  
License: DPR-46

Enclosure:  
Cooper Nuclear Station  
Inspection/Activity Plan

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SUNSI Review Completed: WCW ADAMS:  Yes  No Initials: WCW  
 Publicly Available  Non-Publicly Available  Sensitive  Non-Sensitive

R:\\_REACTORS\EOC and Midcycle\Midcycle Assessment Letters\2006\CNS

RIV:SPE:DRP/C	SRI	C:DRP/C concurrence	D:DRS	D:DRP
WCWalker;df	SCSchwind	KMKKennedy	DDChamberlain	ATHowell III
/RA/	E-KMKennedy	/RA/	RJCaniano for	/RA/
8/17/06	8/16/06	8/17/06	8/24/06	8/25/06

C:DRP/C for signature			
KMKKennedy			
<i>KMK</i>			
8/25/06			

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T=Telephone

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Cooper  
Inspection / Activity Plan  
07/01/2006 - 03/31/2008

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Type
	<b>EXAM - INITIAL EXAMINATION</b>		5		
1	X02344	COOPER - INITIAL EXAM (11/06)		09/11/2006 09/15/2006	Not Applicable
1	X02344	COOPER - INITIAL EXAM (11/06)		10/02/2006 10/13/2006	Not Applicable
	<b>EP1 - EMERG PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE</b>		5		
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		07/17/2006 07/21/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		07/17/2006 07/21/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/17/2006 07/21/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>REQUAL - REQUALIFICATION</b>		2		
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		08/07/2006 08/11/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-07B - HX PERFORMANCE</b>		3		
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		08/28/2006 09/01/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>TI-169 - TI-169 MSPI VERIFICATION</b>		3		
1	IP 2515/169	Mitigating Systems Performance Index Verification		09/24/2006 12/31/2006	Safety Issues
	<b>RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		2		
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/30/2006 11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/30/2006 11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/30/2006 11/03/2006	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		1		
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/23/2007 04/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/23/2007 04/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/23/2007 04/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION</b>		6		
1	IP 711105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		05/21/2007 05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]		06/11/2007 06/15/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP TEAM - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM</b>		5		
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		05/14/2007 05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		05/14/2007 05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		05/14/2007 05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control P		05/14/2007 05/18/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EP2 - EP PROGRAM</b>		1		
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		07/23/2007 07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		07/23/2007 07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		07/23/2007 07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		07/23/2007 07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/23/2007 07/27/2007	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>EB2-52B - PIR TEAM INSPECTION</b>		5			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		07/16/2007	07/20/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		07/30/2007	08/03/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>EB1-21 - CDB</b>		7			
1	IP 711121	Component Design Bases Inspection		08/27/2007	08/31/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711121	Component Design Bases Inspection		09/10/2007	09/21/2007	Baseline Inspections
	<b>RP-ORS - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY</b>		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/03/2007	09/07/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/03/2007	09/07/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/03/2007	09/07/2007	Baseline Inspections

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