



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

March 2, 2007

Stewart B. Minahan, Vice
President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000298/2007001)

Dear Mr. Minahan:

On February 6, 2007, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Cooper Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2006. 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.

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.

Overall, Cooper Nuclear 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 performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green).

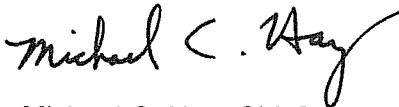
The NRC has identified a substantive crosscutting issue in the human performance area at Cooper Nuclear Station. There were 10 Green inspection findings with crosscutting aspects in the human performance area. Seven of these findings involved the work practices component of human performance. A crosscutting theme associated with four of the seven findings, in the Initiating Events, Mitigating Systems, and Barrier Integrity cornerstones, involved the aspect of procedural compliance. Examples include: ineffective communication to operators to ensure that key parameters such as total core flow were properly monitored and controlled; operators failing to sound the fire alarm, announce the fire, and dispatch the fire brigade, in response to a fire alarm in the reactor building; personnel failing to take appropriate actions for a degraded control room annunciator associated with a fire alarm; and a number of instances of inappropriate storage of transient combustibles in the reactor building. To address problems in this area, your staff continued to implement a performance improvement plan in 2006; however, it is not clear whether the scope of efforts to address the negative trend in work practices will be

effective in arresting this trend before performance declines to the level noted in past assessments. Because of this very concern, your staff conducted a common cause analysis. We understand that the results of this analysis will provide the basis for the identification of additional actions. As a result, this substantive crosscutting issue will remain open until we determine, through the implementation of focused baseline inspections, that corrective actions implemented in accordance with your improvement plan have resulted in improved performance.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection scheduled through September 30, 2008. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the 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 midcycle review.

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 me at (817) 860-8144 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,


Michael C. Hay, Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

Enclosure:
Cooper Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
1	SP-EDG	- SPECIAL INSP. CNS DIESEL RELIABILITY	2	01/22/2007	02/23/2007	Event Response Insp
	IP 93812	Special Inspection				
	EXAM	- INITIAL OPERATOR RETAKE EXAM	1	01/29/2007	01/30/2007	Not Applicable
1	X02372	COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - RETAKE EXAM (01/2007)				
	RP-ORS3	- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ALARA	1	04/23/2007	04/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas				
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls				
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification				
	EB2-05T	- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION	4	05/21/2007	05/25/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]				
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]				
	RP TEAM	- RADIATION SAFETY TEAM	4	06/11/2007	06/15/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment				
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems				
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation				
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control F				
	EP2	- EP PROGRAM	1	07/23/2007	07/27/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing				
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing				
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes				
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies				
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification				
	EB2-52B	- PIR TEAM INSPECTION	4	07/16/2007	07/20/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems				
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems				
	RP-ORS4	- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY-ACCESS	1	08/20/2007	08/24/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas				
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls				
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification				
	EB1-21	- CDB	7	10/01/2007	10/05/2007	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection				
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection				
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection				
	RP-ORS1	- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ACCESS	1	03/10/2008	03/14/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas				

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
	RP-ORS1 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ACCESS		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/10/2008	03/14/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		03/10/2008	03/14/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		03/10/2008	03/14/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EXAM - INITIAL EXAMINATION		4			
1	X02375	COOPER NUCLEAR-INITIAL EXAM(04/08)		03/10/2008	03/14/2008	Not Applicable
1	X02375	COOPER NUCLEAR-INITIAL EXAM(04/08)		04/07/2008	04/15/2008	Not Applicable
	EP1 - EP EXERCISE		3			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		04/07/2008	04/11/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-2/17 - 50.59 & PERMANENT PLANT MODS		4			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		05/12/2008	05/16/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		05/12/2008	05/16/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-07B - BIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		1			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		08/18/2008	08/22/2008	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS2 - OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections

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R:_ REACTORS\EOC and Midcycle\EOC Assessment Letters\2006 - dated 3-2-07\CNS.wpd

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