



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

November 29, 2000

J. H. Swailes, Vice President of
Nuclear Energy
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

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

Dear Mr. Swailes:

On November 6, 2000, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of the Cooper Nuclear Station. The Midcycle Review for the Cooper Nuclear Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period of October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2000. 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.

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). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2001. However, we are still evaluating the significance of two potential findings utilizing the Significance Determination Process (SDP).

The first potential finding involves multiple degraded equipment qualification splice treatments that affected the operability of numerous plant components. The second finding involves the failure of the formal emergency preparedness exercise critique process to identify that a nonconservative offsite dose assessment had been made during the exercise. Supplemental inspection may be warranted if we determine that these findings are greater than very low safety significance (Green), and we will notify you via separate correspondence of any resulting changes to our inspection plan.

Additionally, the staff has identified cross-cutting issues in the area of problem identification and resolution. Primarily, these issues were in the areas of problem identification, evaluation of issues and their impact on the operating plant, determinations of the extent of conditions, and timeliness of implementing corrective actions. Although these issues have been, to date, classified as having very low safety significance, nonconformance conditions are required to be promptly corrected or sufficient interim compensatory measures established, or technical

evaluations performed to justify the existing conditions. This concern will be reviewed further during the next problem identification and resolution team inspection currently scheduled for September 2001.

Enclosure 1 details the scheduled inspections that will occur through September 30, 2001. 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 last 6 months of the inspection plans 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 management 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) 860-8185 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles Marschall, Chief
Project Branch C
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Docket Nos. 50-298
Licensee Nos. DPR-46

Enclosure:
Cooper Inspection/Activity Plan

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Cooper Station
Inspection / Activity Plan
12/01/2000 - 09/30/2001

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	OB-EXAMS - RO/SRO EXAMS		6			
1	X02202	COOPER - INITIAL EXAM (12/2000)		12/04/2000	12/08/2000	Not Applicable
	EMB - CHANGES		1			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		01/22/2001	01/26/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE		1			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		02/12/2001	02/16/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - TRIENNIAL FP		9			
1	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		04/02/2001	04/06/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-S2 - ACCESS AUTH/ACCESS CONTROL		1			
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		03/26/2001	03/30/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizator		03/26/2001	03/30/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-EP1 - A&N, ERO, EAL/EP, PI&R, PIV		1			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - SSD&PCI		7			
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		06/04/2001	06/08/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		06/18/2001	06/22/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP1 - ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS (3)		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		05/21/2001	05/25/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - 50.59		1			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		06/04/2001	06/08/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP2 - GASEOUS & LIQUID EFFLUENTS		1			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/09/2001	07/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP3 - RAD MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION		1			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP4 - RAD MATERIALS PROCESSING & SHIPPING		1			
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		08/20/2001	08/24/2001	Baseline Inspections
	OB-PIR - PROBLEM ID INSP		5			
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/24/2001	09/28/2001	Baseline Inspections
	OB-RQ - REQUAL INSP		2			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		09/17/2001	09/21/2001	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.