



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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September 17, 2004
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NRC TO DISCUSS SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE OF INSPECTION FINDING AT COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of the Nebraska Public Power District on Monday, September 27, in Arlington, Texas, to discuss the safety significance of an inspection finding at Cooper Nuclear Station. The plant is located near Brownville, Neb.

An NRC inspection completed on July 15 identified an apparent violation of NRC requirements involving changes in the position of several valves during maintenance that might have prevented the service water system from functioning under some conditions. The service water system supplies cooling water to safety-related plant equipment.

The NRC preliminary evaluation found the safety significance of this issue to be “greater than green,” because it affected the reliability of the service water system for 21 days before the problem was detected. However, it does not represent a current safety concern because the licensee has changed the valve settings to their proper positions.

The NRC evaluates regulatory performance at commercial nuclear power plants with a color-coded process which classifies inspection findings as either green, white, yellow or red, in order of increasing safety significance.

The September 27 meeting, called a regulatory conference, allows Nebraska Public Power District officials to provide the NRC with any new information and to present its views of the issue’s safety significance. The meeting will begin at noon in the NRC’s Region IV office in Arlington. The public can observe the meeting, and NRC officials will be available before its conclusion to answer any questions.

No final decision on the safety significance, any apparent violation or any enforcement action will be made during the regulatory conference. Information presented at the conference will be used by the NRC staff, along with the inspection findings, to determine the final safety significance of the problem. Those results will be posted on the NRC's web site at: www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/enforcement/current.html#reactor.

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