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
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-298
Licensee Nos. DPR-46

Enclosure:
Cooper Inspection/Activity Plan

cc:
G. R. Horn, Senior Vice President
of Energy Supply
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15th Street
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

John R. McPhail, General Counsel
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499
S. R. Mahler, Assistant Nuclear Licensing and Safety Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Dr. William D. Leech
Manager - Nuclear
MidAmerican Energy
907 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 657
Des Moines, Iowa 50303-0657

Ron Stoddard
Lincoln Electric System
1040 O Street
P.O. Box 80869
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-0869

Michael J. Linder, Director
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Cheryl K. Rogers, Program Manager
Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Division of Public Health Assurance
Consumer Services Section
301 Centennial Mall, South
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Ronald A. Kucera, Director of Intergovernmental Cooperation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Jerry Uhlmann, Director  
State Emergency Management Agency  
P.O. Box 116  
Jefferson City, Missouri  65101

Vick L. Cooper, Chief  
Radiation Control Program, RCP  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Bureau of Air and Radiation  
Forbes Field Building 283  
Topeka, Kansas  66620

Presiding Commissioner  
Atchison County  
P.O. Box 280  
Rock Port, Missouri  64482

Sheriff  
Atchison County Sheriff's Office  
511 West Clay  
Rock Port, Missouri  64482

Sheriff  
1805 N Street  
Auburn, Nebraska  68305

John A. Miller, Regional Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region VII  
2323 Grand Blvd., Suite 900  
Kansas City, Missouri  64108-2670

Robert Leopold  
State Liaison Officer  
Nebraska Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health Assurance  
Department of Regulation and Licensure  
P.O. Box 95007  
Lincoln, Nebraska  68509-5007

Daniel K. McGhee  
Bureau of Radiological Health  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Building  
321 12th Street  
Des Moines, Iowa  50319-0075
Gary McNutt, Deputy Director,
Radiation Control
Section for Environmental Public Health
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, Missouri  65102-0570
Electronic distribution from ADAMS by RIV:
Regional Administrator (EWM)
DRP Director (KEB)
DRS Director (ATH)
Senior Resident Inspector (JAC)
Branch Chief, DRP/C (CSM)
Senior Project Engineer, DRP/C (DPL)
Branch Chief, DRP/TSS (PHH)
Jim Isom, Pilot Plant Program (JAI)
Sampath Malur, Pilot Plant Program (SKM)
B. Henderson, PAO (BWH)
C. A. Hackney, RSLO (CAH)
C. J. Gordon (CJG)
DRS Branch Chiefs (GMG, JLS2, JLP)
W. D. Travers, EDO (WDT)
W. M. Dean, Chief, NRR/DIPM/IIPB (WMD)
R. K. Frahm, PPR Program Manager, NRR/ILPB (RKF)
B. A. Boger, Associate Dir. for Inspection and Programs (BAB2)
B. W. Sheron, Associate Dir. for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis (BWS)
M. S. Satorius, Chief, Regional Operations Staff, OEDO (MAS)
S. Richards, NRR Project Director (SAR)
R. Gramm, Chief, Section 1, NRR/DLPM (RAG)
L. Burkhart, NRR Project Manager (LJB)
NRR (RidsNrrDipmlipb)

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T=Telephone     E=E-mail     F=Fax
## Inspection / Activity Plan

### Cooper Station

**12/01/2000 - 09/30/2001**

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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.

This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.