May 29, 2001

S. K. Gambhir, Division Manager
Nuclear Operations
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 399
Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023-0399

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - FORT CALHOUN STATION
(REPORT 50-285/01-01)

Dear Mr. Gambhir:

On May 8, 2001, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Fort Calhoun Station. The end-of-cycle review for Fort Calhoun Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period April 2, 2000, through March 31, 2001. 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.

Overall, Fort Calhoun Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. 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).

While plant performance for the most recent quarter is within the licensee response column of the Action Matrix, there was one low to moderate safety significant PI (white) during the first three quarters of the assessment cycle. During the first quarter of the assessment cycle, the PI for occupational radiation safety changed to White, indicating degraded occupational exposure control. The NRC performed a supplemental inspection in May 2000 and concluded that Fort Calhoun Station had implemented extensive and thorough corrective actions. Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through May 31, 2002.

The enclosure details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. 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.
For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1 through December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e., the second, third, and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the third calendar quarter (July 1 through September 30) in lieu of a midcycle review. The impact on the inspection plan, which is included as an enclosure, is minimal. Activities planned for the transition cycle represent only 60-80 percent of those activities that would be accomplished during a typical 12-month inspection and assessment cycle.

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 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 S. Marschall, Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-285
License: DPR-40

Enclosure:
Fort Calhoun Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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Electronic distribution from ADAMS by RIV:
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DRP Director (KEB)
DRS Director (ATH)
Senior Resident Inspector (WCW)
Branch Chief, DRP/C (CSM)
Senior Project Engineer, DRP/C (DPL)
Section Chief, DRP/TSS (PHH)
Jim Isom, Pilot Plant Program (JAI)
Sampath Malur, Pilot Plant Program (SKM)
RidsNrrDipmlipb
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.