August 26, 2002

R.T. Ridenoure, Division Manager
Nuclear Operations
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 550
Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023-0550

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - FORT CALHOUN STATION

On August 1, 2002, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of the Fort Calhoun Station. In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 305, “Operating Reactor Assessment Program,” the midcycle review for the Fort Calhoun Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating the performance of your Fort Calhoun Station for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 through December 31, 2002. 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 Regulatory Response column of the NRC’s Action Matrix, based on a White finding in the Public Radiation cornerstone. This finding involved radiation levels exceeding required levels on the external surface of a shipment package. Because of the location of the source of radiation on the package during transport and the performance of a time-motion study, your staff determined that no members of the public came in close proximity to the package during shipment; therefore, the shipment did not present an immediate safety concern to members of the public.

Your staff took immediate corrective actions in response to the transportation finding, we understand that your staff performed investigations, reviews, and self-assessments. A special inspection was performed in May 2002. A supplementary inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, “Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area,” is scheduled to be performed by an NRC Region IV inspector during the week of August 26, 2002, to assess the adequacy of your evaluation and to review the corrective actions you have taken.

The enclosed inspection plan details the scheduled inspections that will occur through September 30, 2003. 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 addition, the NRC is in the process of finalizing a Temporary Instruction (TI) that will be used to review implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required by the Agency’s Security Order to all commercial nuclear power plants dated February 25, 2002. Schedules have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that these inspections will begin within the next calendar quarter. Once finalized, the details will be communicated by separate correspondence.

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/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 Claude Johnson at (817) 860-8282 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ken E. Brockman, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-285
License: DPR-40

Enclosure:
Fort Calhoun Inspection/Activity Plan

cc:
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DRS Director (EEC)
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Branch Chief, DRP/C (CEJ1)
Senior Project Engineer, DRP/C (WCW)
Staff Chief, DRP/TSS (PHH)
RITS Coordinator (NBH)
Jim Isom, Pilot Plant Program (JAI)

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W. A. Maier, RSLO (WAM)
C. J. Gordon (CJG)
DRS Branch Chiefs (GMG, ATG, CSM)
W. D. Travers, EDO (WDT)
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A. Wang, NRR Project Manager (ABW)

Hard Copy:
Records Center, INPO

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