

March 15, 2000

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

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT ON UNIT
STAFF QUALIFICATIONS (TAC NO. MA5139)

Dear Mr. Swailes:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 181 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your application dated March 31, 1999.

The amendment modifies Cooper Nuclear Station's Technical Specifications, Section 5.3.1, "Unit Staff Qualifications." The change endorses the provisions of Regulatory Guide 1.8, Revision 2, "Qualification and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants," for the shift supervisor, senior operator, licensed operator, shift technical advisor, and radiological manager.

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence J. Burkhart, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 181 to DPR-46
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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*No legal objection

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NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

DOCKET NO. 50-298

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 181
License No. DPR-46

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) dated March 31, 1999, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2. Technical Specifications

- The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 181, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: March 15, 2000

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 181

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46

DOCKET NO. 50-298

Replace the following pages of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the enclosed revised pages. The revised pages are identified by amendment number and contain marginal lines indicating the areas of change.

REMOVE

5.0-4

INSERT

5.0-4

5.0 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

5.3 Unit Staff Qualifications

- 5.3.1 Each member of the unit staff shall meet or exceed the minimum qualifications of the American National Standards Institute N-18.1-1971, "Selection and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants," except for the shift supervisor, senior operator, licensed operator, shift technical advisor, and Radiological Manager who shall meet or exceed the qualifications of Regulatory Guide 1.8, Revision 2.
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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 181 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46
NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-298

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated March 31, 1999, Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) requested an amendment to the Technical Specifications (TSs) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). The proposed changes would modify CNS's TS 5.0, "Administrative Controls," Section 5.3, "Unit Staff Qualifications," Subsection 5.3.1 for unit staff qualifications for the shift supervisor, senior operator, licensed operator, shift technical advisor, and radiation manager positions from addressing the provisions of ANSI N18.1-1971 or Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.8, "Qualification and Training of Personnel for Nuclear Power Plants," September 1975, to endorsing those related provisions that are contained in RG 1.8, Revision 2. The licensee stated in its submittal that, although not required by the TS, current CNS procedures are consistent with RG 1.8, Revision 2. The licensee also concluded that adoption of RG 1.8, Revision 2, would provide clearer requirements regarding these positions.

2.0 EVALUATION

The change proposed by the licensee endorses RG 1.8, Revision 2, for the shift supervisor, senior operator, licensed operator, shift technical advisor, and radiological manager positions. Specifically, Section 5.3.1 is amended to state that these positions shall meet or exceed the qualifications of RG 1.8, Revision 2. RG 1.8, Revision 2, is the current guidance used by the NRC to describe a method acceptable to the staff for complying with those portions of the Commission's regulations that pertain to the training and qualifications of nuclear power plant personnel. The adoption of this requirement in TS Section 5.3.1 for the shift supervisor, senior operator, licensed operator, shift technical adviser, and radiological manager is consistent with the NRC's current regulatory position. The adoption of RG 1.8, Revision 2, establishes adequate qualifications for the stated positions and is, therefore, acceptable.

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Nebraska State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comment.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment changes recordkeeping, reporting, and administrative procedures or requirements. Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: James Bongarra

Date: March 15, 2000

Cooper Nuclear Station

cc:

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January 2000