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NRC, NPPD TO MEET FOR DISCUSSION ON
POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS AT COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a predecisional enforcement conference on Tuesday, April 15, with officials of Nebraska Public Power District, the operator of Cooper Nuclear Station, a nuclear power plant near Brownville, Nebraska. The parties will discuss two apparent violations of NRC requirements.

The conference will begin at 10:30 a.m. at NRC Region IV offices in Arlington, Texas. The meeting will be open to public observation; NRC officials will be available afterwards for questions.

The apparent violations were identified during inspections conducted December 1 to January 11, and October 7 to February 19 of this year. The first apparent violation is for failing on three occasions to adequately evaluate the safety of changes to the plant's equipment configuration as described in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR). The UFSAR describes all the plant's safety systems and NRC regulations require an evaluation anytime changes are made that affect these systems.

The second apparent violation, identified in the second inspection, arises from failure to update the UFSAR after changes to safety equipment were made.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that NRC has made a final determination that violations did occur or that enforcement action, such as a monetary fine, will be taken. The purpose is to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance, and to provide NPPD officials an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report and present corrective actions that have been taken.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a civil penalty, will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later time.