



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

May 18, 2000

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Swailes:

On May 3, 2000, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Cooper Nuclear Station. The end-of-cycle review for Cooper Nuclear Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period May 30, 1999, to April 1, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and to advise you of our planned inspection effort resulting from this end-of-cycle review.

Overall, Cooper Nuclear Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety. Cooper Nuclear Station fully met all cornerstone objectives. While the plant performance during the assessment period was within the licensee response column, you identified a concern with the qualification of electrical splices in containment shortly after the end of the assessment period. On April 19, 2000, we began an inspection to review the design and configuration of environmentally qualified splice treatments at Cooper Nuclear Station. The issues related to the splice treatments were not used during our end-of-cycle assessment because the safety significance of this issue had not been determined at the time. We will inform you of the results of that inspection by separate correspondence.

Based on the End-of-Cycle Review results, all performance indicators for the cornerstones were in the licensee response column. Additionally, NRC inspections and licensee self-assessments did not identify any findings that were other than green (very low safety significance) within the cornerstones of safety. Therefore, at this time, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility over the next 12 months.

The enclosed inspection plan details the scheduled inspections during the period from April 2, 2000, to March 31, 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 plan is tentative and will be revised at the midcycle 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 placed in the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link at the NRC

homepage, <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. More detailed information that provides the basis for this assessment is available at the following NRC website: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>

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 No. 50-298
Licensee No. DPR-46

Enclosure:
Cooper Nuclear Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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Cooper Station
Inspection / Activity Plan
04/02/2000 - 03/31/2001

Units	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	No. assigned to Procedure	Planned Dates Start	End	Inspection Type
	PSB-RP1	- ALARA PLANNING & CONTROLS	1				
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		1	04/17/2000	04/21/2000	Baseline Inspections
	RPC-F02	- ENGINEERING SELF ASSESSMENT	2				
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		2	04/17/2000	04/21/2000	Supplemental Progra
1	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performa		2	04/17/2000	04/21/2000	Supplemental Progra
	RPC-SPEC	- SPECIAL INSPECTION - OKONITE EQ SPLICES	2				
1	IP 93812	Special Inspection		2	04/17/2000	05/19/2000	Other Routine
	PBC-02X	- TEMPORARY PLANT MODS	2				
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		2	05/14/2000	06/24/2000	Baseline Inspections
	EMB	- FP FOLLOWUP	1				
1	IP 92904	Followup - Plant Support		1	05/22/2000	05/26/2000	Regional Initiative
	PSB-S1	- RESPONSE TO CONT EVENTS, SEC PLAN, & PIV	4				
1	IP 7113003	Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of P		2	05/22/2000	05/26/2000	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113004	Security Plan Changes		2	05/22/2000	05/26/2000	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		2	05/22/2000	05/26/2000	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-03X	- ADVERSE WEATHER	2				
1	IP 7111101	Adverse Weather Protection		2	06/25/2000	08/05/2000	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-03Y	- DRILLS,EXER. & ACTUAL EVENT EVALUATION-S	2				
1	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation		2	06/25/2000	08/05/2000	Baseline Inspections
	EMB	- PERM PLANT MODS	3				
1	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		2	06/26/2000	06/30/2000	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-RP2	- RAD MONITORING INSTRUMENTATION	1				
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		1	06/26/2000	06/30/2000	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-04R	- TEMPORARY PLANT MODS	2				
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		2	08/06/2000	09/16/2000	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-04X	- EQUIPMENT ALIGNMENT-SEMI	2				
1	IP 7111104	Equipment Alignment		2	08/06/2000	09/16/2000	Baseline Inspections
	OB-PIR	- PIR INSPECT	5				
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		5	08/21/2000	08/25/2000	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-EP1	- DRILL AND EXERCISE INSPECTION & PIV	3				
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		2	08/28/2000	09/01/2000	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		2	08/28/2000	09/01/2000	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-05A	- ADVERSE WEATHER	2				
1	IP 7111101	Adverse Weather Protection		2	09/17/2000	11/04/2000	Baseline Inspections
	EMB	- MAINT RULE IMPLEMENTATION	1				
1	IP 711112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		1	09/25/2000	09/29/2000	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Cooper Station
Inspection / Activity Plan
04/02/2000 - 03/31/2001

Units	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	No. assigned to Procedure	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
					Start	End	
	PBC-06R - TEMPORARY PLANT MODS		2				
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		2	11/05/2000	12/23/2000	Baseline Inspections
	OB-EXAMS - RO/SRO EXAMS		5				
1	X02025	CNS/INITAL EXAMS		1	11/13/2000	11/17/2000	Not Applicable
1	X02025	CNS/INITAL EXAMS		4	12/04/2000	12/08/2000	Not Applicable
	PBC-07X - EQUIPMENT ALIGNMENT-SEMI		2				
1	IP 7111104	Equipment Alignment		2	12/24/2000	02/10/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-07Y - TEMPORARY PLANT MODS		2				
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		2	12/24/2000	02/10/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - CHANGES		1				
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		1	01/22/2001	01/26/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-08Q - TEMPORARY PLANT MODS		2				
1	IP 7111123	Temporary Plant Modifications		2	02/11/2001	03/31/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PBC-08X - DRILLS,EXER. & ACTUAL EVENT EVALUATION-S		2				
1	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation		2	02/11/2001	03/31/2001	Baseline Inspections
	EMB - HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE		1				
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		1	02/12/2001	02/16/2001	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-S2 - ACCESS AUTH/ACCESS CONTROL		1				
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		1	03/26/2001	03/30/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification an		1	03/26/2001	03/30/2001	Baseline Inspections

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