

PRIORITY ATTENTION REQUIRED MORNING REPORT - REGION IV MAY 26, 2000

Licensee/Facility:

Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper 1
Brownville, Nebraska
Dockets: 50-298
BWR/GE-4

Notification:

MR Number: **4-00-0015**
Date: 05/26/00
From RIs

Subject: EQUIPMENT QUALIFICATION DEFICIENCIES WITH OKONITE TAPED SPLICES
- UPDATE

Reportable Event Number: N/A

Discussion:

On April 10, 2000, Cooper Nuclear Station management informed the resident inspectors that drywell temperature profiles during design basis accidents may exceed their equipment qualification test temperatures. Subsequent review by the licensee determined that the overall concern with the environmental qualification of drywell equipment was bounded by existing test results, as long as all electrical splices were in the configuration bounded by the test. To help confirm the actual configuration, on April 14 a licensee electrician and the NRC's resident inspector entered the containment to inspect a sample of splices. The electrician and resident inspector observed that, for most of the Okonite splices observed, the outer tape was unraveling. A special inspection was chartered to review the circumstances surrounding these discrepancies.

After comprehensive review and corrective actions, on May 26 at 9:58 a.m., operators at Cooper Nuclear Station began plant restart from the forced outage. The licensee plans to close the main output breaker early on May 27 and restore the facility to normal operation.

On May 23, licensee management and technical personnel conducted a teleconference with the Regional Administrator and members of the regional and NRR staffs to discuss the plant's corrective actions and readiness to restart. Licensee personnel have replaced all taped environmentally qualified splice treatments in the drywell and steam tunnel with alternative qualified treatments. During the licensee's evaluations, certain terminal blocks were also replaced.

Regional Action:

The special inspection is continuing, in accordance with Inspection Procedure 93102. The inspection team reviewed the extent of the condition and the licensee's repair plans and did not identify any outstanding safety issues that affect the restart of the unit.

Contact: David Loveless (817)860-8161 Wayne Sifre (817)860-8193