

July 3, 2000

Mr. S. K. Gambhir
Division Manager - Nuclear Operations
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
Post Office Box 399
Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0399

SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT NO. 1 - APPROVAL OF PROPOSED
REVISION TO OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT'S FORT CALHOUN
STATION QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION (TAC
NO.MA8869)

Dear Mr. Gambhir:

By letter dated April 20, 2000, Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) requested approval of a proposed revision to the Fort Calhoun Station (FCS) Quality Assurance (QA) Program contained in Appendix A of the Updated Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR).

OPPD proposed to revise its commitments regarding applicability of the FCS QA Program to communications equipment intended for fire brigade use and to remove fire brigade communications from the listing of fire protection-related equipment in the FCS QA Program. This request was submitted in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(a)(3) as reflecting changes that reduced commitments in the FCS QA Program description previously approved by the NRC.

The staff concludes that the reductions in commitments you identified continue to satisfy the requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 and are, therefore, acceptable. A copy of the related safety evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

/RA/

L. Raynard Wharton, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-285

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
OMAHA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT NO. 1
DOCKET NO. 50-285

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated April 20, 2000, Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) requested NRC approval of a proposed revision to the Fort Calhoun Station (FCS) Quality Assurance (QA) Program contained in Appendix A of the Updated Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR).

OPPD proposed to revise its commitments regarding applicability of the FCS QA Program to communications equipment intended for fire brigade use and to remove fire brigade communications from the listing of fire protection-related equipment in the FCS QA Program. This request was submitted in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54(a)(3) as reflecting changes that reduced commitments in the FCS QA Program description previously approved by the NRC.

2.0 EVALUATION

Section 3, "Corporate Policy," of the FCS QA program currently stipulates that communications equipment intended for fire brigade use is subject to the pertinent provisions in the QA Program to an extent consistent with safety. Additionally, Section 11, "Inspection" of the FCS QA Program requires that the Manager-Fort Calhoun Station assure, in part, that periodic inspections be made of fire protection-related communications equipment to assure its acceptable condition.

These FCS QA program requirements were established to satisfy the provisions in the NRC letter dated August 29, 1977, "Fire Protection Functional Responsibilities," (FRACQUA) which provided supplemental guidance to Appendix A to Branch Technical Position (BTP) APCSB 9.5-1, "Guidelines for Fire Protection for Nuclear Power Plants Docketed Prior to July 1, 1976." The guidance in Appendix A to BTP APCSB 9.5-1 was subsequently incorporated into BTP CMEB 9.5-1, "Guidelines for Fire Protection for Nuclear Power Plants," under Section 9.5.1, "Fire Protection Program," of NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan" (SRP).

In its letter dated April 20, 2000, OPPD proposed to revise Sections 3 and 11 of the FCS QA program to eliminate its commitment for periodic inspections of fire protection-related communications equipment and to remove such equipment from the scope of the FCS QA Program. OPPD based its proposal on the diversity of options available for fire brigade communication at FCS, and on the assurance of availability provided by the frequent, routine use of such equipment.

Due to the diversity of communications systems available to fire brigade personnel and the daily use of most of these systems by plant personnel (such that any inoperability issues would be promptly identified and corrected), the removal of fire protection-related communications systems from the FCS QA Program, and the elimination of the corresponding inspection requirements associated with such equipment, are consistent with the guidance in BTP CMEB 9.5-1, Section 9.5.1 of the SRP, and will not have an adverse impact on plant fire safety. Additionally, these changes do not impact FCS compliance with the requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The FCS QA program description continues to comply with the requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50 and satisfies current fire protection program guidance in BTP CMEB 9.5-1, Section 9.5.1 of the SRP. On this basis, OPPD's proposal to revise its FCS QA program to eliminate its commitment for periodic inspections of fire protection-related communications equipment and to remove such equipment from the scope of the FCS QA Program is acceptable.

Principal Contributor: J. Peralta

Date: July 3, 2000