



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

July 25, 2000

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

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE END-OF-CYCLE
PLANT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT OF COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Swailes:

This refers to the meeting conducted at Cooper Nuclear Station on July 18, 2000, between your staff and the NRC. This meeting was held to discuss the results of the end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Cooper Nuclear Station conducted on May 3, 2000.

A list of attendees and a copy of presentation slides are enclosed.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kriss M. Kennedy, Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-298
License No.: DPR-46

Enclosures:

1. Attendance List
2. NRC Presentation

cc w/enclosures:

G. R. Horn, Senior Vice President
of Energy Supply
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15th Street
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

John R. McPhail, General Counsel
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

S. R. Mahler, Assistant Nuclear
Licensing and Safety Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Dr. William D. Leech
Manager - Nuclear
MidAmerican Energy
907 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 657
Des Moines, Iowa 50303-0657

Ron Stoddard
Lincoln Electric System
1040 O Street
P.O. Box 80869
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-0869

Michael J. Linder, Director
Nebraska Department of Environmental
Quality
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Chairman
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
Nemaha County Courthouse
1824 N Street
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Cheryl K. Rogers, Program Manager
Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Division of Public Health Assurance
Consumer Services Section
301 Centennial Mall, South
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Ronald A. Kucera, Director
of Intergovernmental Cooperation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Jerry Uhlmann, Director
State Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Vick L. Cooper, Chief
Radiation Control Program, RCP
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Bureau of Air and Radiation
Forbes Field Building 283
Topeka, Kansas 66620

Presiding Commissioner
Atchison County
P.O. Box 280
Rock Port, Missouri 64482

Sheriff
Atchison County Sheriff's Office
511 West Clay
Rock Port, Missouri 64482

Sheriff
1805 N Street
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

John A. Miller, Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region VII
2323 Grand Blvd., Suite 900
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2670

Robert Leopold
State Liaison Officer
Nebraska Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health Assurance
Department of Regulation and Licensure
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Daniel K. McGhee
Bureau of Radiological Health
Iowa Department of Public Health
Lucas State Office Building
321 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075

Gary McNutt, Deputy Director,
Radiation Control
Section for Environmental Public Health
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0570

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- Regional Administrator **(EWM)**
- DRP Director **(KEB)**
- DRS Director **(ATH)**
- Senior Resident Inspector **(JAC)**
- Branch Chief, DRP/C **(KMK)**
- Senior Project Engineer, DRP/C **(DPL)**
- Branch Chief, DRP/TSS **(LAY)**
- Jim Isom, Pilot Plant Program **(JAI)**
- Sampath Malur, Pilot Plant Program **(SKM)**
- B. Henderson, PAO **(BWH)**
- C. A. Hackney, RSLO **(CAH)**
- C. J. Gordon **(CJG)**
- DRS Branch Chiefs **(GMG, DAP, JLP)**
- W. D. Travers, EDO **(WDT)**
- W. M. Dean, Chief, NRR/DIPM/IIPB **(WMD)**
- R. K. Frahm, PPR Program Manager, NRR/ILPB **(RKF)**
- B. A. Boger, Associate Dir. for Inspection and Programs **(BAB2)**
- B. W. Sheron, Associate Dir. for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis **(BWS)**
- M. S. Satorius, Chief, Regional Operations Staff, OEDO **(MAS)**
- S. Richards, NRR Project Director **(SAR)**
- R. Gramm, Chief, Section 1, NRR/DLPM **(RAG)**
- L. Burkhart, NRR Project Manager **(LJB)**

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RIV:PE:DRP/C	AC:DRP/C			
WCSifre;dlf	KMKennedy			
<i>KMK for</i>	<i>/RA/</i>			
7/25/00	7/25/00			

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ENCLOSURE 1

JULY 18, 2000, MEETING ATTENANCE LIST

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE END-OF-CYCLE
PLANT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

NAME	TITLE/ORGANIZATION
Jennifer Peters	Licensing
Sharon Mahler	Assistant Manager, Licensing
D. R. Robinson	Quality Assurance Manager
William Turnbull	MEC
R. D. Stoddard	LES
Brad Houston	QA Operations Manager
Pat Donohue	Manager, PED
Kevin Jones	Manager, Design Engineering
Brenda Brueggemann	SORC/SRAB Admin.
Kevin Dorwich	PAD Manager
Jim Florence	Training Manager (acting)
John Michael DeBartolo	Coordinator, ECP
Marg Coulter	Admin. Development Supervisor
Sara Stiers	Site Support Project Manager
Dave Pewe	Operations Supervisor
Mark Gillan	Outage Manager
Mike Hale	Senior Manager, Site Support
Paul Caudill	Senior Manager, Technical Services
John McDonald	Plant Manager
Mike Boyce	Risk & Regulatory Affairs Manager
Hrach Minassian	Materials Manager, MST
Dave Porter	Project Manager, NPD
David VanDeKamp	MIT, Licensing
James K. Salisbury	Acting ESD Manager, Engeering
Kevin R. Billesbach	Quality Assurance Engineer
Bruce C. Thomas	Senior DED, Engineering
Carl R. Markert	Engineer

John Humphrey	Assistant to Plant Manager
Duane Pavel	DED Engineering Specialist
Bob Gibson	Manager, Nuclear Projects
Alan L. Dostal	Power Sales Contract Project Manager
Gary Stuchal	Manager, F&C
Brenda McMann	SRAB Coordinator, Admin.
Robert Wolff	DED I&C
Richard D. Sessoms	Senior Manager, Quality Assurance
Bruch Rash	Senior Manager, Engineering
David Nelson Madsen	Licensing Engineer, Licensing
Jim Sumpter	Project Manager, Licensing
Ed McCutchen	Senior Licensing Engineer, Licensing
Dan Buman	USAR Project Manager
Bryan A. Rethen	Security Manager
Clifford L. Kirkland	NIS, Manager
R. K. Thorson	WCM
Robin Ziptel	EP
Linda R. Dewhirst	Licensing Engineer/Licensing
Lee E. Kitchen	Project Manager, OMG
Charles Fidler	Assistant Maintenance Manager
Steve Hans	Outage Supervisor
Jerry Lewis	Reactor Engineering Manager
Sharon Brown	Cost Engineering Manager
Tom Schoping	Communications
Guy R. Horn	Energy
John Swailes	Vice President, Nuclear Engineering

ENCLOSURE 2

PLANT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

FOR

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

**MAY 30, 1999, TO
APRIL 1, 2000**

REGION IV OFFICE
ARLINGTON, TEXAS

KRISS KENNEDY

BRANCH CHIEF

ON SITE
INSPECTION STAFF

JEFF CLARK

SENIOR RESIDENT INSPECTOR

MIKE HAY

RESIDENT INSPECTOR

PURPOSE

- **REVIEW OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE BY LICENSEE**
- **PLANNING AND ALLOCATION OF NRC INSPECTION RESOURCES**

REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROGRAM

- **DIVIDED INTO PERFORMANCE AREAS KNOWN AS STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE ARENAS**
 - **REACTOR SAFETY** - avoiding accidents and reducing the consequences of accidents if they occur
 - **RADIATION SAFETY** - protecting plant employees and the public during routine operations
 - **SAFEGUARDS** - protecting the plant against sabotage or other security threats

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION ASSESSMENT

- **ASSESSMENT PERIOD**
 - **MAY 30, 1999 TO APRIL 1, 2000**
- **ASSESSMENT BASED ON**
 - **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
SUBMITTED BY COOPER
NUCLEAR STATION**
 - **INSPECTION FINDINGS**

RESULTS

- **FINDINGS RESULTING FROM NRC INSPECTIONS WERE GREEN (VERY LOW SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE)**
- **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE SEVEN CORNERSTONES OF SAFETY WERE GREEN**

REACTOR SAFETY

- **CONCERN IDENTIFIED WITH QUALIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL SPLICES**
 - **IDENTIFIED SHORTLY AFTER END OF ASSESSMENT PERIOD**
 - **NRC INSPECTION CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO REVIEW DESIGN AND CONFIGURATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY QUALIFIED SPLICE TREATMENTS**
 - **ISSUES NOT CONSIDERED IN ASSESSMENT BEING DISCUSSED TODAY**

RADIATION SAFETY

**NO CONCERNS
IDENTIFIED**

SAFEGUARDS

**NO CONCERNS
IDENTIFIED**

OVERALL **ASSESSMENT**

- **COOPER NUCLEAR STATION WAS OPERATED IN A MANNER THAT PRESERVED PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**
- **PLANNED INSPECTION ACTIVITY**
 - **BASELINE INSPECTIONS**
 - **INSPECTION TO REVIEW DESIGN AND CONFIGURATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY QUALIFIED SPLICE TREATMENTS (IN PROGRESS)**

NRC'S REVISED REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) revamped its inspection, assessment, and enforcement programs for commercial nuclear power plants. The new process takes into account improvements in the performance of the nuclear industry over the past 25 years and improved approaches of inspecting safety performance at NRC licensed plants.

The new process monitors licensee performance in three broad areas (called strategic performance areas): reactor safety (avoiding accidents and reducing the consequences of accidents if they occur), radiation safety (protecting plant employees and the public during routine operations), and safeguards (protecting the plant against sabotage or other security threats). The process focuses on licensee performance within each of seven cornerstones of safety in the three areas:

Reactor Safety	Radiation Safety	Safeguards
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Initiating Events•Mitigating Systems•Barrier Integrity•Emergency Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Occupational•Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Physical Protection

To monitor these seven cornerstones of safety, the NRC used two processes that generate information about the safety significance of plant operations: inspections and performance indicators. Inspection findings will be evaluated according to their potential significance for safety, using the Significance Determination Process, and assigned colors of GREEN, WHITE, YELLOW, or RED. GREEN findings are indicative of issues that, while they may not be desirable, represent very low safety significance. WHITE findings indicate issues that are of low to moderate safety significance. YELLOW findings are issues that are of substantial safety significance. RED findings represent issues that are of high safety significance with a significant reduction in safety margin.

Performance indicator data will be compared to established criteria for measuring licensee performance in terms of potential safety. Based on prescribed thresholds, the indicators will be classified by color representing varying levels of performance and incremental degradation in safety: GREEN, WHITE, YELLOW, or RED. GREEN indicators represent performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight beyond the baseline inspections. WHITE corresponds to performance that may result in increased NRC oversight. YELLOW represents performance that minimally reduces safety margin and requires even more NRC oversight. And RED indicates performance that represents a significant reduction in safety margin but still provides adequate protection to public health and safety.

The assessment process integrates performance indicators and inspections so the agency can reach objective conclusions regarding overall plant performance. The agency will use an Action Matrix to determine in a systematic, predictable manner which regulatory actions should be taken based on a licensee's performance. The NRC's actions in response to the significance (as represented by the color) of issues will be the same for performance indicators as for inspection findings. As a licensee's safety performance degrades, the NRC will take more and increasingly significant action, which can include shutting down a plant, as described in the Action Matrix.

More information can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>