



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

April 17, 2002

EA-01-298

David L. Wilson, Vice President of
Nuclear Energy
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

**SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - NRC SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION (NRC
INSPECTION REPORT 50-298/02-06)**

Dear Mr. Wilson:

On March 26, 2002, the NRC staff forwarded a letter concerning the final significance determination of a white inspection finding in the mitigating systems cornerstone. The inspection concluded that you had implemented an improper validation process for your biennial written requalification examinations conducted between June 20 and July 27, 2000, for which you had not implemented prompt and appropriate corrective actions. The inspection report discussed that the validation process, given the similarity of examination questions from examination to examination, resulted in a compromise of the integrity of the written examinations administered by your staff.

Since this finding is the only white (or more significant) finding involving the mitigating systems cornerstone, we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," during the week of April 29, 2002. This is consistent with the recently revised guidance in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," Section 06.06.e. This supplemental inspection is conducted to provide assurance that the root causes and contributing causes of risk significant performance issues are understood, the extent of condition is identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made 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/reading-rm/ADAMS.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Anthony T. Gody, Chief, Operations Branch at (817) 860-8159 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

cc:

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