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Docket No. 50-298

Mr. J. M. Pilant, Director  
 Licensing & Quality Assurance  
 Nebraska Public Power District  
 P. O. Box 499  
 Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Dear Mr. Pilant:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 60 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station in response to your application dated July 10, 1979.

This amendment modifies the Technical Specifications to allow termination of the aquatic surveillance study and evaluation program.

We have examined the safety significance of this modification to the operation of the Cooper Nuclear Station and have determined that the modification does not alter the accident and transient analyses previously considered by the Commission.

This modification to the limiting conditions for operation of the Appendix B Technical Specifications does not involve significant new safety information of a type not considered in previous Commission safety reviews of the facility. This modification does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident, does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, and therefore does not involve a significant hazards consideration. We have also concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by this action.

Copies of the Environmental Impact Appraisal and the Notice of Issuance/Negative Declaration are also enclosed.

Sincerely,  
 Original signed by

*V. Rooney for*

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief  
 Operating Reactors Branch #3  
 Division of Operating Reactors

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Enclosures:  
 See next page

OFFICE	ORB#3	ORB#3	OELD	ORB#3	AD/ORB/DOR
SURNAME	SSheppard:acr	VRooney	DSWAMSON	Tippolito	WGammill
DATE	11/27/79	11/30/79	12/4/79	12/3/79	11/30/79

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Mr. J. M. Pilant

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Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 60 to DPR-46
2. Safety Evaluation
3. Notice

cc:

Mr. G. D. Watson, General Counsel  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P. O. Box 499  
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Mr. Arthur C. Gehr, Attorney  
Snell & Wilmer  
3100 Valley Center  
Phoenix, Arizona 85073

Cooper Nuclear Station  
ATTN: Mr. L. Lessor  
Station Superintendent  
P. O. Box 98  
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Auburn Public Library  
118 - 15th Street  
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Director  
Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Control  
P. O. Box 94877, State House Station  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Mr. William Siebert, Commissioner  
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners  
Nemaha County Courthouse  
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Director, Technical Assessment Division  
Office of Radiation Programs (AW 459)  
US EPA  
Crystal Mall #2  
Arlington, Virginia 20460

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region VII  
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR  
1735 Baltimore Avenue  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

DOCKET NO. 50-298

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 60  
License No. DPR-46

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment by Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) dated July 10, 1979, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
  - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
  - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
  - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
  - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment and paragraph 2.C(2) of Facility License No. DPR-46 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 60, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. This license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #3  
Division of Operating Reactors

Attachment:  
Changes to the Technical  
Specifications

Date of Issuance: December 7, 1979

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 60

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46

DOCKET NO. 50-298

Replace the following pages of the Appendix "B" Technical Specifications with the enclosed pages. The revised pages are identified by Amendment number and contain vertical lines indicating the area of change.

Remove

Insert

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4.0 Environmental Surveillance and Special Studies

4.1 Biological

4.1.1 Aquatic

4.1.1.1 Surveillance, Study, and Evaluation Programs

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4.1.1.2 Plant Cooling Water Systems Fish Entrapment

Objective

To assure that the fish impingement does not cause excessive impact to the fish population of the Missouri River.

A. Specification

1. Impingement on the traveling screens should not exceed 90 fish per hour. When this impingement rate is exceeded, additional sampling shall be performed in accordance with 4.1.1.2.B.4 until the impingement rate falls within the 90 fish per hour limit. If four consecutive samplings each result in more than 90 fish per hour, a written notification will be made within 30 days to the NRC describing the results of the monitoring program described in 4.1.1.2.B.4.

B. Surveillance Requirement

Fin fish impingement on the plant intake structure traveling screens shall be monitored by sampling of the screen wash discharge as follows:



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 60 TO LICENSE NO. DPR-46

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-298

Description of Proposed Action

A letter from Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) requesting the deletion of the Aquatic Surveillance, Study and Evaluation Program (Section 4.1.1.1) of the Appendix B Environmental Technical Specifications was submitted on July 10, 1979. The deletions requested in the July 10, 1979 letter included Water Quality Studies, Periphyton, Aquatic Macroinvertebrates and Benthic Organisms, and the Fisheries Studies.

Evaluation

Pre-operational studies for Cooper Nuclear Station began in 1969. Post-operational studies have been conducted since 1974. After reviewing the Annual Environmental Operating Reports for the years 1973 through 1978, we find that the licensee has complied with all monitoring requirements and has submitted annual reports as set forth by the ETS. In addition, after discussions with the state and the utility, we find that the licensee has completed all monitoring requirements of the NPDES permit including those required under Section 316(a) and 316(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Since the licensee has satisfactorily completed all monitoring and reporting requirements, we recommend that Section 4.1.1.1 on "Aquatic Surveillance, Study, and Evaluation Program" be deleted from the Appendix B ETS. It is our belief that it would be a needless expense and would not provide a useful service for the utility to continue with any further monitoring as stated in Section 4.1.1.1.

In a related request on May 25, 1979, the licensee requested that all of Appendix B of the Cooper Nuclear Station be deleted and reliance for environment protection be in accordance with the NPDES permit.

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We plan to conduct a comprehensive review of the licensee's five-year report data to determine if currently unidentified yet significant effects from plant operation have occurred in the site vicinity. We will also contact local resource agencies to determine if they can identify outstanding environmental problems. Our review is designed to determine whether we can establish that the concerns expressed in the FES, which supported issuance of the license, have been satisfied and that no significant effects have occurred. At that time we will act on the licensee's May 25 request.

In summary, we conclude that the surveillance programs in Section 4.1.1.1 may be deleted from the ETS on the basis that the ETS requirements have been fulfilled and that deletion of the remainder of the ETS be delayed until we have completed a review of the monitoring data. Upon completion of our review we will address deletion of the remainder of the ETS.

#### Conclusion and Bases for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis, it is concluded that there will not be a significant environmental impact attributable to the proposed action other than has already been predicted and described in the Commission's FES for the Cooper Nuclear Station. Having made this conclusion, the Commission has further concluded that no environmental impact statement for the proposed action need be prepared and that a negative declaration to this effect is appropriate.

Dated: December 7, 1979

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONDOCKET NO. 50-298NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICTNOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY  
OPERATING LICENSEAND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendment No. 60 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46, issued to Nebraska Public Power District, which revised the Technical Specifications for operation of the Cooper Nuclear Station, located in Nemaha County, Nebraska. The amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance.

This amendment modifies the Technical Specifications to allow termination of the aquatic surveillance study and evaluation program.

The application for the amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. The Commission has made appropriate findings as required by the Act and the Commission's rules and regulations in 10 CFR Chapter I, which are set forth in the license amendment. Prior public notice of this amendment was not required since the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

The Commission has prepared an environmental impact appraisal for this action and has concluded that an environmental impact statement for this particular action is not warranted because there will be no significant environmental impact attributable to the action other than that which has already been predicted and described in the Commission's Final Environmental Statement for the facility.

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For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated July 10, 1979, (2) Amendment No. 60 to License No. DPR-46, and (3) the Commission's related Environmental Impact Appraisal. All of these items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and at the Auburn Public Library, 118 - 15th Street, Auburn, Nebraska 68305. A copy of items (2) and (3) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Operating Reactors.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 7 day of December 1979.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Vernon L. Rooney, Acting Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #3  
Division of Operating Reactors