

MARCH 9 1979

Docket No. 50-298

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BJones (4)	

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. 54 to Facility License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station. This amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in partial response to your application dated July 11, 1978. The remainder of your application will be acted upon at a later date.

The amendment involves changes to the Technical Specifications to delete the requirement for the thermal mixing zone limit and the associated monitoring program.

We found it necessary to make certain changes to your proposed Technical Specifications. These changes have been discussed with and agreed to by your staff.

The amendment does not involve significant new safety information of a type not considered by a previous Commission safety review of the facility. It 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 and that the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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

Sincerely,

*Const  
CCP*

Original signed by

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #3

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OFFICE	ORB #3	ORB #3	ORB #3	ORB #3	ORB #3
SURNAME	Enclosures and See next page	ccs: SSheppard	VRooney:mjf	DSWANSON	Tippolito
DATE		3/5/79	3/5/79	3/8/79	3/6/79

Mr. J. M. Pilant

- 2 -

Enclosures:

1. Amendnemt No. 54 to DPR-63
2. Environmental Impact Appraisal
3. Notice of Issuance and Negative Declaration

cc w/enclosures:

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. 54  
License No. DPR-46

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment by Nebraska Public Power District dated July 11, 1978, 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

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The Technical Specifications contained in Appendices A and B, as revised through Amendment No. 54, 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: March 9, 1979

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 54

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46

DOCKET NO. 50-298

Revise Appendix B as follows:

Remove

5  
6  
45  
46

Replace

5  
6  
45  
46

(Page 5 Deleted)

2.0

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CONDITION

3.0

MONITORING REQUIREMENT

2.1.4 Maximum BTU/hr.

Not applicable.

2.1.5 Rate of Temperature Change

Specification

The rate of change of the river water temperature due to cooling water discharge shall be limited to 2°F/hour at the mixing zone boundary. This limitation may be exceeded for brief periods as necessary to maintain protection of critical plant equipment and systems, and for certain safeguard operations which cannot be limited or negated by plant operation.

3.1.4 Maximum BTU/hr.

Not applicable.

3.1.5 Rate of Temperature Change

Specification

A mid-depth continuous temperature recorder will be used in the discharge canal. (See 3.1.2) Temperatures in the discharge canal will be monitored and the rate of temperature change recorded hourly. This rate of temperature change will be correlated with the rate of temperature change at the mixing zone boundary. Accuracy and

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency - Water Quality  
U. S. Geological Survey  
University of Nebraska  
Omaha Public Power District

The three areas of major attention are: 1) temperature and chemistry, 2) fish and 3) macroinvertebrates and periphyton. Present plans call for a 2-year postoperational collection and evaluation program, with periodic reviews of the program and publication of progress and final reports.

Preoperational studies were begun in 1970, but the Joint Agency Study, except for phytoplankton, has been suspended until the plant becomes operational. Efforts are being made to exchange and compare data with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

4.1.2 Terrestrial

Not applicable.

4.2 Chemical

See Section 4.1.1.1.

4.3 Physical

4.3.1 Terrestrial

Not applicable.

4.3.2 Aerial

Not applicable.

4.4 Radiological

Objective

To provide the necessary information for evaluation of radiological effects on the environment.

Amendment No. 54

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

BY THE

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 54 TO LICENSE DPR-46

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-298

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### Description of Proposed Action

By letter dated July 11, 1978, the Nebraska Public Power District requested changes to the environmental technical specifications for Cooper Nuclear Station. The changes evaluated here relate to the thermal mixing zone. The existing environmental technical specifications require that the size of the thermal mixing zone be limited and that monitoring be done to assure compliance with the limit. This proposed amendment deletes the requirement for this limit and the associated monitoring program.

### Summary of Impacts

The existing ETS require that the size of the thermal mixing zone (5°F surface isotherm) not extend to more than 1/3 of the river width. Operational environmental monitoring has been done at the station since 1973, and pre-operational studies were performed during the years 1969 through 1972. The results from the thermal surveys indicate that the plume will be well within the existing ETS limits under full power operation, except on those rare occasions when the river flow is abnormally low. The biological data indicate that environmental effects are not likely during low flows or otherwise as damage to fish or planktonic organisms has not been identified with the plume. Occasional exceedance of the specified plume size during extreme hydrological conditions will not result in significant detrimental effects, and thus we conclude that the action of this proposed amendment will not result in significant environmental impact.

### Conclusion and Basis for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis, it is concluded that there will be no significant environmental impact attributable to the proposed action.

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.

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

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendment No. 54 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46, issued to the Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee), which revised the Technical Specifications for operation of the Cooper Nuclear Station (the facility) located in Nemaha County, Nebraska. The amendment is effective as of its date of issuance.

The amendment involves changes to the Technical Specifications to delete the requirement for the thermal mixing zone limit and the associated monitoring 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 the amendment and has concluded that an environmental impact statement

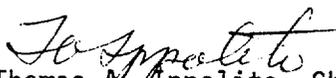
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for this particular action is not warranted because there will be no environmental impact attributable to the action other than that which has already been predicted and described in the Commission's Final Environmental Statement for the facility dated February 1973.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated July 11, 1978, (2) Amendment No. 54 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 9th day of March 1979.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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