

June 10, 1993

Docket No. 50-298

Mr. Guy R. Horn
Nuclear Power Group Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
Post Office Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Dear Mr. Horn:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM A
REQUIREMENT OF APPENDIX J TO 10 CFR PART 50 - COOPER NUCLEAR
STATION (TAC NO. M86695)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact. This assessment relates to your request
dated June 7, 1993, for an exemption from one of the requirements of
Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50.

This Environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal
Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File
NRC & Local PDRs
P. Noonan
H. Rood
T. Chan
E. Adensam
J. Roe
OGC (15B18)

E. Jordan
OPA
A. B. Beach, RIV
J. Gagliardo, RIV
E. Collins, RIV
R. Kopriva, RIV
ACRS (10)(P315)

RECEIVED
NRC
JUN 10 1993

OFC	LA:PD4-1 <i>PH</i>	PM:PD4-1	D(A):PD4-1	OGC
NAME	PNoonan	HRood <i>HR</i>	TChan <i>TChan</i>	C MARCO
DATE	6/9/93	6/9/93	6/9/93	6/10/93
COPY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES/ <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES/ <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES/ <input type="checkbox"/> NO	YES/NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY Document Name: COOLLRT.EA

9306170114 930610
PDR ADOCK 05000298
P PDR

Handwritten:
RFD
1/1
CP-3
1/1

June 10, 1993

Docket No. 50-298

Mr. Guy R. Horn
Nuclear Power Group Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
Post Office Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Dear Mr. Horn:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM A
REQUIREMENT OF APPENDIX J TO 10 CFR PART 50 - COOPER NUCLEAR
STATION (TAC NO. M86695)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact. This assessment relates to your request
dated June 7, 1993, for an exemption from one of the requirements of
Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50.

This Environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal
Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File
NRC & Local PDRs
P. Noonan
H. Rood
T. Chan
E. Adensam
J. Roe
OGC (15B18)

E. Jordan
OPA
A. B. Beach, RIV
J. Gagliardo, RIV
E. Collins, RIV
R. Kopriva, RIV
ACRS (10)(P315)

OFC	LA:PD4-1	PM:PD4-1	D(A):PD4-1	OGC
NAME	PNoonan	HRood	TChan	C MARCO
DATE	6/17/93	6/19/93	6/19/93	6/11/93
COPY	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY Document Name: COOLLRT.EA



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 10, 1993

Docket No. 50-298

Mr. Guy R. Horn
Nuclear Power Group Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
Post Office Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Dear Mr. Horn:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM A
REQUIREMENT OF APPENDIX J TO 10 CFR PART 50 - COOPER NUCLEAR
STATION (TAC NO. M86695)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact. This assessment relates to your request
dated June 7, 1993, for an exemption from one of the requirements of
Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50.

This Environmental Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal
Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Rood".

Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects -III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Guy R. Horn
Nuclear Power Group Manager

Cooper Nuclear Station

cc:

Mr. G. D. Watson, General Counsel
Nebraska Public Power District
P. O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Cooper Nuclear Station
ATTN: Mr. John M. Meacham
Site Manager
P. O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Randolph Wood, Director
Nebraska Department of Environmental
Control
P. O. Box 98922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Mr. Richard Moody, Chairman
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
Nemaha County Courthouse
1824 N Street
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 218
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. Harold Borchert, Director
Division of Radiological Health
Nebraska Department of Health
301 Centennial Mall, South
P. O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICTCOOPER NUCLEAR STATIONDOCKET NO. 50-298ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of a schedular exemption from the requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to the Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS), located in Nemaha County, Nebraska.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed action would grant a one-time, temporary exemption from the requirements of Section III.C.1 of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, to allow Type C testing (local leak-rate testing) of 10 containment isolation valves in the reverse direction.

The licensee's request for exemption and the bases for the exemption are contained in a letter dated June 7, 1993.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of Type C testing is to measure the leakage through the primary reactor containment and thereby provide assurance that the maximum allowable leakage rates are not exceeded. Prior to the current refueling outage, the licensee had made the determination that reverse direction testing of containment isolation valves produced equivalent or more

conservative results than testing in the accident direction. However, leakage testing during the current outage included tests on some valves in both the accident and the reverse direction. The results of these tests cast doubt on the determination that reverse testing is acceptable under Appendix C for certain valves. During the current refueling outage, the licensee tested all such valves in the accident direction, where possible. However, the current plant configuration does not permit 10 of these valves to be tested in the accident direction. As a result, the licensee has committed to reanalyze the basis for testing in the reverse direction and, if necessary, modify the plant to permit testing of the 10 valves in the accident direction. However, due to the time required to design, procure, and install the plant modifications necessary to allow testing of the valves in the accident direction, the licensee has requested that the 10 valves be exempted from testing in the accident direction until the next refueling outage, currently scheduled to begin in the fall of 1994.

Without the proposed exemption, the licensee would be forced, at a significant cost, but without any significant increase in public health and safety, to delay the restart date of the current outage, which is currently scheduled for June 21, 1993.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would allow a one-time exemption from Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 to allow Type C testing of 10 isolation valves in the reverse direction. The licensee has committed to install the hardware necessary to test these valves in the accident direction during the next scheduled refueling outage unless it can otherwise show that

testing in the reverse direction is adequate. Since Appendix J requires Type C testing at every refueling outage, the requested exemption will state that the valves for which reverse testing cannot be justified must be tested in the accident direction at the next refueling outage, currently scheduled to begin in the fall of 1994.

The proposed exemption will not negatively impact containment integrity and will not significantly change the release from facility accidents. Therefore, post-accident radiological releases will not be significantly greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents or result in any significant occupational exposure. Likewise, the proposed exemption would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Cooper Nuclear Station, dated February 1973.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The staff consulted with the State of Nebraska regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated June 7, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C., and at the local public document room at the Auburn Public Library, 118 15th Street, Auburn, Nebraska 68305.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 10th day of June 1993

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Terence Chan, Acting Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation