

February 3, 1995

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

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - AMENDMENT NO. 168 TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46 (TAC NO. M91228)

Dear Mr. Horn:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 168 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated December 22, 1994.

The amendment revises TS 1.0.J, definition of limiting conditions for operation, consistent with the guidance provided in NRC Generic Letter 87-09, "Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of the Standard Technical Specifications on the Applicability of Limiting Conditions for Operation and Surveillance Requirements."

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. A Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly Federal Register notice.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
James R. Hall, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 168 to
License No. DPR-46
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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D. Hagan	G. Hill (2)	T. Kim	OPA
J. Roe	J. Hall		

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Hall".

James R. Hall, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

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2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

Mr. Guy R. Horn
Nebraska Public Power Company

Cooper Nuclear Station

cc:

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

NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

DOCKET NO. 50-298

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 168
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 December 22, 1994, 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 license 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.

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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 Operating License No. DPR-46 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2. Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 168, are hereby incorporated in the license. The licensee shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications.

3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



James R. Hall, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Attachment: Changes to the
Technical Specifications

Date of Issuance: February 3, 1995

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 168

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46

DOCKET NO. 50-298

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the enclosed page. The revised page is identified by Amendment number and contains a vertical line indicating the area of change.

REMOVE PAGE

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8. Simulated Automatic Actuation - Simulated automatic actuation means applying a simulated signal to the sensor to actuate the circuit in question.
- 8.A Source Check - A SOURCE CHECK shall be the qualitative assessment of channel response when the channel sensor is exposed to a source of radioactivity.
9. Trip System - A trip system means an arrangement of instrument channel trip signals and auxiliary equipment required to initiate action to accomplish a protective function. A trip system may require one or more instrument channel trip signals related to one or more plant parameters in order to initiate trip system action. Initiation of protective action may require the tripping of a single trip system or the coincident tripping of two trip systems.

J. Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) - The limiting conditions for operation specify the minimum acceptable levels of system performance necessary to assure safe startup and operation of the facility. When these conditions are met, the plant can be operated safely and abnormal situations can be safely controlled.

Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO) shall be applicable during the operational conditions specified for each specification.

Adherence to the requirements of the LCO within the specified time interval shall constitute compliance with the specification. In the event the LCO is restored prior to expiration of the specified time interval, completion of the LCO action is not required.

In the event an LCO cannot be satisfied because of circumstances in excess of those addressed in the specification, the facility shall be placed in HOT SHUTDOWN within 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours unless corrective measures are completed that permit operation under the LCO for the specified time interval as measured from initial discovery. Exception to these requirements shall be stated in the individual specifications.

Entry into an operational condition or other specified condition shall not be made when the conditions for the Limiting Conditions for Operation are not met and the associated action requires a shutdown if they are not met within a specified time interval. Entry into an operational condition or other specified condition may be made in accordance with the action requirements when conformance to them permits continued operation of the facility for an unlimited period of time. This provision shall not prevent passage through or to operational conditions as required to comply with action requirements. Exceptions to these requirements are stated in the individual Specifications. This specification is not applicable in the cold condition or the refueling mode.

When a system, subsystem, train, component or device is determined to be inoperable solely because its emergency power source is inoperable, or solely because its normal power source is inoperable, it may be considered OPERABLE for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of its applicable Limiting Condition for Operation, provided: (1) its corresponding normal or emergency power source is OPERABLE; and (2) all of its redundant system(s), subsystem(s), train(s), component(s) and device(s) are OPERABLE, or likewise satisfy the requirements of this specification. Unless both conditions (1) and (2) are satisfied, the unit shall be placed in at least HOT SHUTDOWN within 6 hours, and in at least COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours. This specification is not applicable in the cold condition or the refueling mode.

K. Limiting Safety System Setting (LSSS) - The limiting safety system settings are settings on instrumentation which initiate the automatic protective action at a level such that the safety limits will not be exceeded. The region between the safety limit and these settings represent a margin with normal operation lying below these settings. The margin has been established so that with proper operation of the instrumentation the safety limits will never be exceeded.



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 168 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-46
NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
DOCKET NO. 50-298

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated December 22, 1994, Nebraska Public Power District (the licensee) requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). The proposed amendment would revise CNS Technical Specification (TS) 1.0.J, definition of "Limiting Conditions for Operation (LCO)", consistent with the guidance provided in NRC Generic Letter 87-09, "Sections 3.0 and 4.0 of the Standard Technical Specifications on the Applicability of Limiting Conditions for Operation and Surveillance Requirements."

2.0 EVALUATION

The changes proposed by the licensee have been reviewed considering the limitations set forth in Generic Letter (GL) 87-09. GL 87-09 recognizes, in part, that standard TS 3.0.4, which corresponds to the CNS TS Definition 1.0.J, unduly restricts facility operation when conformance to the Action Requirements provides an acceptable level of safety for continued operation. For a limiting condition for operation (LCO) that has Action Requirements permitting continued operation for an unlimited period of time, entry into an operational mode or other specified condition of operation should be permitted in accordance with those Action Requirements. The restriction on change in operational modes or other specified conditions should apply only where the Action Requirements establish a specified time interval in which the LCO must be met or a shutdown of the facility would be required or where entry into that operational mode would result in entry into an Action Statement with such time constraints. However, nothing in the staff position stated in GL 87-09 should be interpreted as endorsing or encouraging plant startup with inoperable equipment. The GL 87-09 itself states that startup with inoperable equipment should be the exception rather than the rule.

The licensee has provided confirmation and certification that appropriate administrative controls and procedures are in place for limiting the use of the relief allowed by the TS Definition 1.0.J in conjunction with its proposed TS change submitted in response to GL 87-09. Additionally, no changes are proposed that affect plant configuration, setpoints, operating parameters, or the operator/equipment interface.

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Based on review of the licensee's proposal, and confirmations related above, the staff concludes in granting the exceptions proposed in response to GL 87-09 that the licensee has in place adequate administrative controls and procedures which will ensure that it will be the exception rather than the rule that startup of the plant with important safety features inoperable will occur.

Therefore, the following change to CNS TS Definition 1.0.J proposed by the licensee is acceptable:

"Entry into an operational condition or other specified condition shall not be made when the conditions for the Limiting Conditions for Operation are not met and the associated action requires a shutdown if they are not met within a specified time interval. Entry into an operational condition or other specified condition may be made in accordance with the action requirements when conformance to them permits continued operation of the facility for an unlimited period of time. This provision shall not prevent passage through or to operational conditions as required to comply with action requirements. Exceptions to these requirements are stated in the individual Specifications. This specification is not applicable in the cold condition or the refueling mode."

3.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Nebraska State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comment.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 and changes surveillance requirements. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration and there has been no public comment on such finding (60 FR 153). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR Section 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b) no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: T. Kim

Date: February 3, 1995