

October 25, 2002

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

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - BOILING WATER REACTOR VESSEL AND
INTERNALS PROJECT (BWRVIP) PRODUCTS IMPLEMENTATION
(TAC NO. MB5191)

Dear Mr. Wilson:

In February of 2002, while performing his normal duties, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Resident Inspector reviewed several Corrective Action Program documents for Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). As a result of that inspection and discussions with your staff, it was determined that Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) had not adequately developed or implemented a formal program to perform inspections and other actions in accordance with approved BWRVIP topical reports. Further, it was not apparent that NPPD had been employing BWRVIP reports into its inservice inspection program since 1998.

In letters dated April 25 and May 30, 1997; the Chairman of the BWRVIP on behalf of the member utilities, including NPPD, committed BWR licensees to several actions, including implementing BWRVIP products at each BWR utility in a timely manner. In discussions with the NPPD staff, the Resident Inspector noted your apparent misunderstanding of the BWRVIP program. Specifically, when a BWRVIP product was issued by the BWRVIP, you were required to implement the product, even if the NRC has not completed a safety evaluation. Additionally, when implementation problems are encountered, you should inform the NRC of the problems in a timely manner. These concerns were communicated to your staff during telephone conversations (including phone calls of March 20, and 25, 2002).

Your staff has indicated that it has revised the CNS' inspection plans for implementing BWRVIP products, such that there will be no misunderstanding of the BWRVIP Chairman's commitments for implementing the BWRVIP products. Your staff has also indicated that it plans to meet with the NRC staff to brief us on changes made to the implementation program. We look forward to that briefing.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1476.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mohan C. Thadani, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

cc: See next page

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REACTOR VESSEL AND INTERNAL PROJECT PRODUCTS IMPLEMENTATION:

Dated: October 25, 2002

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Cooper Nuclear Station

cc:

Mr. William R. Mayben
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15th Street
Columbus, NE 68601

Mr. Michael T. Coyle
Site Vice President
Nebraska Public Power District
P. O. Box 98
Brownville, NE 68321

Mr. John R. McPhail, General Counsel
Nebraska Public Power District
P. O. Box 499
Columbus, NE 68602-0499

Mr. Paul V. Fleming, Licensing Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, NE 68321

Mr. Michael J. Linder, Director
Nebraska Department of Environmental
Quality
P. O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

Chairman
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
Nemaha County Courthouse
1824 N Street
Auburn, NE 68305

Ms. Cheryl K. Rogers, Program Manager
Nebraska Health & Human Services
System
Division of Public Health Assurance
Consumer Services Section
301 Centennial Mall, South
P. O. Box 95007
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007

Mr. Ronald A. Kucera, Director
of Intergovernmental Cooperation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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

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

Jerry Uhlmann, Director
State Emergency Management Agency
P. O. Box 116
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Chief, Radiation Control Program, RCP
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Bureau of Air and Radiation
1000 SW Jackson
Suite 310
Topeka, KS 66612-1366

Mr. Daniel K. McGhee
Bureau of Radiological Health
Iowa Department of Public Health
401 SW 7th Street
Suite D
Des Moines, IA 50309