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Good Afternoon,

I am Dr. Sam Augustine, a representative the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). I am a Board Certified Nuclear Pharmacist and an associate professor at the College of Pharmacy and the College of Medicine. I am also a member of the emergency response team of the Regional Radiation Health Center.

For over thirty years the Omaha Public Power District has proven to be a very good corporate partner with the UNMC. OPPD has supported and cofunded the Regional Radiation Health Center at UNMC. The purpose of the Radiation Health Center is to provide specialized medical services related to the evaluation, treatment, and management of individuals exposed to radioactive materials. Through OPPD's support of the Radiation Health Center, UNMC has been able to obtain state of the art radiation detection instrumentation. The Radiation Health Center, the Nuclear Medicine division of Nebraska Health System (NHS) and UNMC's Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy are able to utilize this equipment for routine patient care and medical research whenever the facility and instrumentation are not being utilized for radiation accident patients. In fact, routine use of the instrumentation by UNMC and NHS is primarily how it is utilized. Among the list of instrumentation OPPD's support has contributed to includes a gamma camera which has been used for nuclear medicine imaging of patients, a high purity Germanium-

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Lithium detector used in research for analysis of radioactive samples, and various computers, radiation survey meters and personnel monitoring devices used in monitoring patients and equipment. Additionally, OPPD has participated, supported and helped coordinate full scale emergency exercises involving the actuation and implementation of the Radiation Health Center. In the August of 2001 evaluation of the Radiation Health Center the Federal Emergency Management Agency said that the Medical Center's staff is "extremely well-trained, and the equipment is excellent". We feel OPPD's support is a major contributor to the excellence of the Regional Radiation Health Center.

OPPD's emergency preparedness organization also provides considerable equipment, supplies, and training to various organizations in the surrounding vicinity. In addition to the State and County civil defense departments, OPPD has worked with local sheriff departments, fire departments, ambulance crews, schools, nursing homes, and others to ensure that these organizations can properly respond in emergency situations. OPPD has established reception centers for the evaluation and decontamination of members of the general public if an emergency should arise. Coordination with the American Red Cross at these centers has also been developed to provide housing to evacuated individuals if necessary. As a result the areas around the Fort Calhoun Station Emergency Planning Zone have developed a trained, well-coordinated emergency response organization that could be invaluable in any type of emergency situation.

We feel that OPPD is exemplary and committed member of our community.