



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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AUG 26 2002

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

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Wilson

On August 1, 2002, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of Cooper Nuclear Station. In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," the midcycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating the performance of your Cooper Nuclear Station facility for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 through December 31, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on greater than four quarters with multiple White findings in the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone.

A supplemental inspection was performed involving NPPD's failure to take immediate compensatory actions following identification of a compromise of the 2000 biennial requalification written examinations. The inspectors determined that you performed a comprehensive root cause evaluation, determined the extent of condition, and developed appropriate corrective actions for this issue. This issue was determined to be a White finding in the Mitigating System Cornerstone, which occurred during the last quarter of the previous assessment period.

A second supplemental inspection was conducted in April 2002 as a result of two additional White findings in the Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone. The results of this inspection indicated that your root cause evaluation did not fully identify and assess all contributing causes that resulted in the breakdown of the Emergency Preparedness Program. These two findings were assessed during the third quarter of calendar year 2001 and remain open.

In response to the Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone, a third supplemental inspection is currently being conducted to assess your corrective action plans. The results will be communicated at the conclusion of the inspection.

Additional supplemental inspections will be conducted concerning your performance improvement plan. These inspections will be performed on a quarterly basis. The schedule for these will be communicated via separate correspondence.

In our Annual Assessment letter dated March 4, 2002, we advised you of substantive cross-cutting issues in the areas of Problem Identification and Resolution and Human Performance. These two areas continue to show adverse trends, while efforts to correct these areas have been largely ineffective.

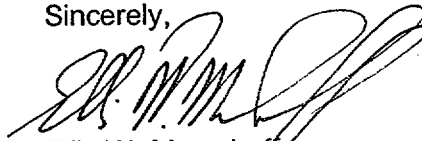
The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2003. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In addition, the NRC is in the process of finalizing a Temporary Instruction (TI) that will be used to review implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required by the Agency's Security Order to all commercial nuclear power plants dated February 25, 2002. Schedules have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that these inspections will begin within the next calendar quarter. Once finalized, the details will be communicated by separate correspondence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mr. Thomas Farnholtz at (817) 860-8243 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,



Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

Enclosure:
Cooper Nuclear Station
Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:

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TRFarnholtz;df	EECollins	KEBrockman	TPGwynn	EWMerschhoff	
<i>TRF</i>	<i>EEC for</i>	<i>(KEB) Av</i>		<i>(EWM)</i>	
8/9 /02	8/22/02	8/20 /02	8/ /02	8/22 /02	

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Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
08/18/2002 - 09/30/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	PSB-EP1	- EP EXERCISE BASELINE INSPECTION	3			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		08/26/2002	08/30/2002	Baseline Inspections
	EMB	- HEAT SINK PERF	1			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
	PSB-S1	- ACCESS AUTH/CONTROL, SEC PLAN & PIV	1			
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorization)		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113004	Security Plan Changes		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		09/09/2002	09/13/2002	Baseline Inspections
	OB-PIR	- CNS PIR INSPECTION	2			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/15/2003	09/19/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/29/2003	10/04/2003	Baseline Inspections
	ACCESSPI	- ACRSA	1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/17/2003	03/21/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB	- ISI	1			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB	- SSD&PCI	5			
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		05/05/2003	05/09/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		05/19/2003	05/23/2003	Baseline Inspections
	EMB	- 50.59	1			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		05/19/2003	05/23/2003	Baseline Inspections
	OB-IN	- INITIAL EXAM PREP	3			
1	X02234	COOPER - INITIAL EXAM (04/03)		05/26/2003	05/30/2003	Not Applicable
	RP-TM	- RAD SAFETY TEAM	4			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		06/09/2003	06/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		06/09/2003	06/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		06/09/2003	06/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		06/09/2003	06/13/2003	Baseline Inspections
	OB-IN	- INITIAL EXAMS	5			
1	X02234	COOPER - INITIAL EXAM (04/03)		06/16/2003	06/20/2003	Not Applicable
	ALARAZ	- ALARA PLANNING AND CONTROLS	1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/07/2003	07/11/2003	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
08/18/2002 - 09/30/2003

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	PSB-EP1	- EP PROGRAM BASELINE INSPECTION	1			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		07/14/2003	07/18/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		07/14/2003	07/18/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		07/14/2003	07/18/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		07/14/2003	07/18/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/14/2003	07/18/2003	Baseline Inspections