



Nebraska Public Power District
Nebraska's Energy Leader

NLS2003028

March 19, 2003

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

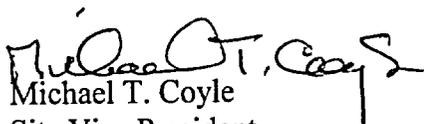
Subject: BWRVIP-25 Rim Hold-Down Bolt Inspection Deferral
Cooper Nuclear Station, NRC Docket No. 50-298, DPR-46

- References:
1. "BWR Vessel and Internals Project BWR Core Plate Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-25)," EPRI TR-107284, December 1996.
 2. Letter to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission from David Wilson (Nebraska Public Power District) dated March 28, 2002, "Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) Program Issues" (NLS2002039).

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) will be unable to perform a BWRVIP inspection during the current refueling outage (RFO). Reference 1 recommends an EVT-1 examination of the rim hold-down bolts from below the core plate. This examination has not been performed to date due to access restrictions encountered during a normal refueling outage. In Reference 2, NPPD committed to develop and implement an alternative examination during RFO21. However, the commitment also contained the provision that if the subject alternative examination could not be developed, then both the NRC and the BWRVIP would be notified. An adequate alternative examination is not possible at this time. The BWRVIP has been notified of the inability of NPPD to perform the recommended EVT-1 examination. An Engineering Evaluation has been performed that justifies deferral of this examination until RFO23. This is a generic industry issue that the BWRVIP is addressing. Following this resolution, NPPD will implement the final BWRVIP recommendations regarding this inspection. This letter satisfies the Reference 2 commitment to also notify the NRC.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Paul Fleming at (402) 825-2774.

Sincerely,


Michael T. Coyle
Site Vice President

/wrv

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cc: Regional Administrator
USNRC - Region IV

Senior Project Manager
USNRC - NRR Project Directorate IV-1

Senior Resident Inspector
USNRC

NPG Distribution

Records

Correspondence No: NLS2003028

The following table identifies those actions committed to by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in this document. Any other actions discussed in the submittal represent intended or planned actions by NPPD. They are described to the NRC for the NRC's information and are not regulatory commitments. Please notify the NL&S Manager at Cooper Nuclear Station of any questions regarding this document or any associated regulatory commitments.

COMMITMENT	COMMITTED DATE OR OUTAGE
Following this resolution [by the BWRVIP], NPPD will implement the final BWRVIP recommendations regarding this [BWRVIP-25 Rim Hold-Down Bolt] inspection.	N/A