



NRC NEWS

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Region IV

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Arlington, TX 76011-4005

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Contact: Victor Dricks

Phone: 817-860-8128

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E-Mail: opa4@nrc.gov

NRC CITES COOPER NUCLEAR PLANT FOR INSPECTION FINDING OF LOW TO MODERATE SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has determined that the failure rate on a recent operator licensing written re-qualification exam at the Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville, Nebraska, should be characterized as “white,” meaning that it has low to moderate importance to safety.

NRC requires written re-qualification examinations every two years for operators in the control room of nuclear power plants. Nebraska Public Power District said it insured safe plant operation by retraining and retesting each operator prior to returning them to their duties in the plant control room. The NRC is monitoring steps taken by the licensee to address the issue.

Under its safety significance determination process, NRC officials classify certain conditions at nuclear power plants as being one of four colors which delineate increasing levels of safety significance, beginning with green and progressing to white, yellow or red.

Additional details on the white finding are available from the NRC's Region IV Office of Public Affairs at the above address or on the NRC's web site at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/enforcement/current.html#reactor> . Information also is available in the NRC's electronic reading room in the agency's ADAMS document system, accessible at: www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html . Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC Public Document Room at 301- 415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the letter to appeal the significance determination of this finding.

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