



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4005

April 14, 2004

Randall K. Edington, Vice
President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: MEETING SUMMARY FOR END-OF-CYCLE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Edington:

This refers to the end-of-cycle performance assessment meeting conducted at the Brownville Concert Hall, Brownville, Nebraska, on April 6, 2004. The purpose of this meeting between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) was to present and discuss the NRC's assessment of performance of the Cooper Nuclear Station for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2003. In addition, the meeting included a presentation on the NRC's oversight process.

The meeting attendance list and a copy of the slides presented during the meeting are included as Enclosures 1 through 3.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be 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).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kriss M. Kennedy in cursive script.

Kriss M. Kennedy, Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

Enclosures:

1. Attendance List
2. NRC Presentation
3. Licensee Presentation

Nebraska Public Power District

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cc w/enclosures:

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Atchison County Sheriff's Office
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Scott Clardy, Director
Section for Environmental Public Health
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Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

NRC PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

LICENSEE/FACILITY	Nebraska Public Power District Cooper Nuclear Station
DATE/TIME	April 6, 2004; 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION	Brownville Concert Hall
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ORGANIZATION
Byron Day	Team Associates
Orlando Stevens	NPPD
DAVID MONTGOMERY	NPPD
Mike Boyce	NPPD
Mick Stauffer	NPPD
Jon Cochran	
Ralph Hernandez	Empyrcar
George Orr	Polestar
CAREY W. FLEMING	WINSTON & STRAWN LLP
PIERRE F. INGOLD	TEAM ASSOCIATES, LLC
Paul & Ryan	Atchison Co. Prossiding Comm
Stan Donkutz	CNS
Marv Reef	NPPD

NRC PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

LICENSEE/FACILITY	Nebraska Public Power District Cooper Nuclear Station
DATE/TIME	April 6, 2004; 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION	Brownville Concert Hall
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ORGANIZATION
MARTIN FAULKNER	NPPD - CNS
Judy W CARTER	NPPD - CGO
KEVIN CHAMBLISS	NPPD - CNS
Joe Bednar	NPPD - CNS
Meshelle Boruch	NPPD - CNS
Rick Cochr	NPPD - LMA
Kip Kirkland	NPPD - CNS
Kenda Knight	NPPD - CNS
DARRELL NELSON	NPPD BOARD
R. COOPER	NPPD - CNS
TONY SCUIA	NPPD - CNS
Joe Ward	NPPD - CNS
ROMAN ESTRADA	NPPD - CNS

NRC PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE

LICENSEE/FACILITY	Nebraska Public Power District Cooper Nuclear Station
DATE/TIME	April 6, 2004; 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION	Brownville Concert Hall
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ORGANIZATION
Serry C Roberts	NPPD
Aracene Weed	NPPD
Beth Bensch	NPPD
Darrell Wellman	Auburn Newspapers
Clay Wacker	NPPD
Julia Schmitt	State of NE HHS R+L
Bob Leopold	State of NE HHS-R&L
Jim Bunstock	NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Todd Hittovv	NPPD / CNS
LaVonne Lehman	Brownville, Neb.
Alan Rostel	NPPD / G.O.
John C. McClure	11

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT MEETING WITH COOPER NUCLEAR STATION



**Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV**



Meeting Purpose

- **Meeting with Licensee and Public**
- **Inform Public of Plant Performance**



NRC Meeting Guidelines

- **Registration Table**
- **Questions and Answers**
- **Handouts**
- **Feedback Forms**



Meeting Agenda

- **Regulatory Oversight**
- **Findings and Assessments**
- **NPPD Response**
- **Questions and Answers**



NRC Personnel

Ellis Merschhoff	Prospective Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs
Bruce Mallet	Regional Administrator
Art Howell	Director, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP)
Kriss Kennedy	Chief, Branch C, DRP



NRC Personnel

Scott Schwind	Senior Resident Inspector Cooper Nuclear Station
Steve Cochrum	Resident Inspector Cooper Nuclear Station
Victor Dricks	Region IV Public Affairs Officer



NPPD Introduction



Assessment Overview

- Cooper Nuclear Station operated in manner that preserved public health and safety
- The NRC's regulatory oversight continued to be governed by the Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC Action Matrix
- All inspection findings were of very low safety significance
- 17 of 18 Performance Indicators were Green
- Personnel errors and corrective action program implementation continued to be problem areas



NRC Performance Goals

- Maintain public safety, protect the environment and promote common defense and security
- Enhance public confidence
- Improve:
 - effectiveness
 - efficiency
 - realism of processes and decision making
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden

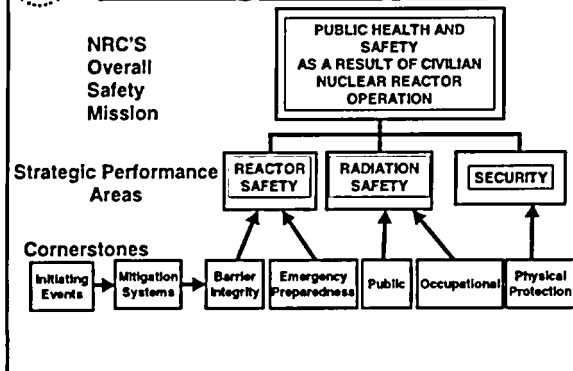


NRC Oversight Activities

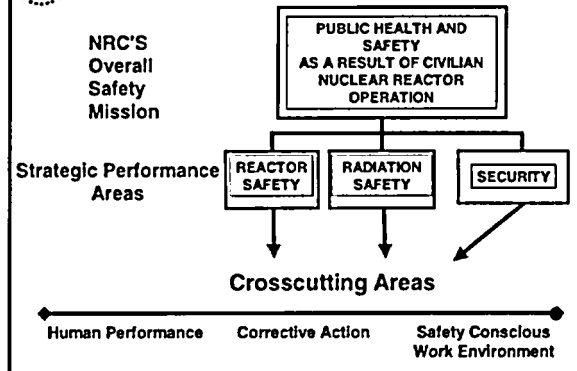
- Provide assurance plants are:
 - Operating safely
 - Complying with regulations
- Based on a logical and sound framework
- Inspections focused on key safety areas
- Objective indicators of performance
- Assessment program triggers regulatory actions

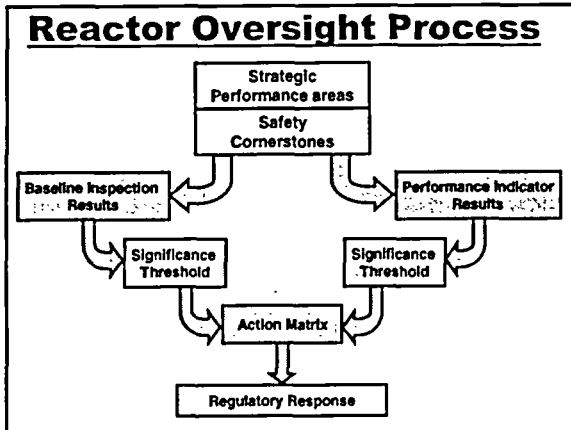


Oversight Program



Crosscutting Areas





Reactor Oversight Process

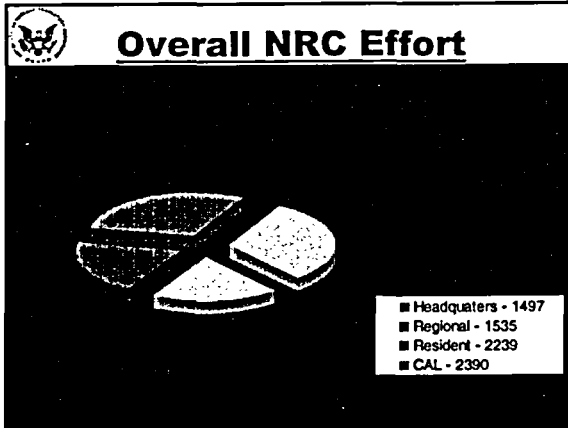
SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE	
GREEN	- very low
WHITE	- low to moderate
YELLOW	- substantial
RED	- high

- ### Baseline Inspection Program
- Gathers objective evidence of plant safety
 - Conducted at all plants
 - Focuses on safety-significant:
 - Systems
 - Components
 - Activities
 - Events

- ### Event Follow-Up and Supplemental Inspections
- Review events for significance
 - Follow-up significant inspection findings
 - Determine causes of performance declines
 - Provide for graduated response

- ### Security at Nuclear Power Plants
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission:**
- Has expanded involvement with FBI, law enforcement and other intelligence agencies
 - Communicates frequently with Office of Homeland Security, DOD, FAA, FEMA, and others
 - Continues to work in concert with:
 - Licensees
 - State and local officials

- ### NRC Inspectors
- Resident Inspectors
 - Live in Community
 - Stationed at Plant
 - Prompt Response Capability
 - Regional Inspectors
 - Specialized
 - Team Inspections
 - Reactive Inspections



Inspection Program

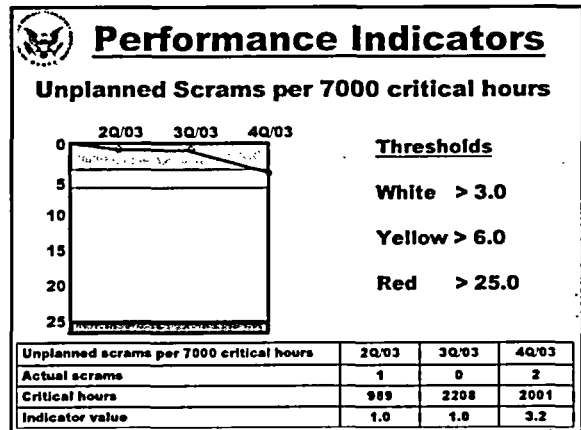
- Inspection reports describe significant findings and non-compliance
- Inspection reports are publicly accessible

www.NRC.gov/reading-rm/adams.html

Performance Indicators

- Provide objective measures
- Indicators for all Strategic Areas
- NRC verifies through inspections
- Performance indicator results and other assessment information available on the NRC's public web site

www.NRC.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CNS/cns_chart.html



Assessment Program

- Objective review of licensee performance
- "Action Matrix" to determine agency response in three areas:
 - Inspection
 - Management Involvement
 - Regulatory Actions
- Plant specific assessment letters
- Information on NRC public web site

ROP Action Matrix 4Q 2003

	License Response	Regulatory	Degraded Cornerstone	Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone	Unacceptable Performance
Nationwide	74	23	2	3	0
Region IV	17	3	0	1	0



Plant Safety Performance Summary



2002 Assessment

- Plant operated safely
- Inspection findings and performance indicators were Green
- Recurring problems with personnel errors and corrective action program
- Cooper entered Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC Action Matrix on April 1, 2002
 - Problems implementing emergency preparedness plan identified in 2001 and 2002



2003 Assessment

- Cooper Nuclear Station operated in manner that preserved public health and safety
- Cooper remained in Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC Action Matrix
- NPPD corrected Emergency Preparedness performance deficiencies
- All inspection findings were of very low safety significance
- 17 of 18 Performance Indicators were Green
 - White PI for Unplanned Scrams
- Personnel errors and corrective action program implementation continued to be problem areas



Confirmatory Action Letter

- Issued January 2003
- Confirm NPPD commitments regarding completion of Strategic Improvement Plan actions
- Addresses long-standing performance issues
 - Emergency preparedness
 - Human performance
 - Material condition and equipment reliability
 - Plant modifications and configuration control
 - Corrective action program
 - Engineering programs



Confirmatory Action Letter

- Includes over 250 actions from Cooper's Strategic Improvement Plan
- Completion dates listed in letter
- CAL items scheduled for implementation through March 2004
- Quarterly inspections of CAL items
- Quarterly public meetings



CAL Inspections

- Four CAL inspections completed in 2003
- NPPD corrected problems and improved performance in Emergency Preparedness
- Progress made in other five CAL areas
- Sustained improved performance not yet evident in areas of:
 - Human Performance
 - Corrective Action Program
 - Material Condition and Equipment Reliability



Baseline Inspections

- **Inspection findings were of very low safety significance (Green)**
- **Crosscutting issues identified**
 - **Human Performance**
 - **Corrective Action Program**



Human Performance

- **Problems with personnel performance continued to be identified**
 - **Failures to follow procedures**
- **NPPD Strategic Improvement Plan has resulted in some improvement**
- **NPPD has taken additional actions to improve performance**



Problem Identification and Resolution

- **Problems with implementing the corrective action program continued to be identified**
- **Staff adequately identified issues**
- **Multiple instances of inadequate corrective actions were identified**
- **NPPD Strategic Improvement Plan has resulted in some improvement**



Performance Indicators

- **17 of 18 NRC Performance Indicators were Green for entire 2003 assessment period**
- **White Performance Indicator in 4Q/2003 for Unplanned Scrams**
- **Green/White threshold – 3 scrams per 7000 critical hours**
 - **May – High main turbine vibration**
 - **October – Fire on wood transmission tower**
 - **November – Reactor feedwater system malfunction**




Planned Actions

- **Conduct baseline inspections**
- **Conduct quarterly CAL inspections**
- **Conduct supplemental inspection for White performance indicator**
- **Conduct supplemental inspection for White finding associated with operator training program**
- **NPPD assess readiness to close CAL**
- **NPPD submit letter to NRC**
- **NRC conduct assessment of effectiveness of CAL actions**




Summary


- **Public health and safety assured**
- **Significant effort in implementing improvement plan**
- **Problems continue with personnel errors and corrective action program implementation**
- **NRC oversight of CNS will remain in accordance with Multiple/Repetitive Degraded Cornerstone Column of Action Matrix**




NPPD RESPONSE



**NRC CLOSING
REMARKS**

 Contacting the NRC	
<p>Report an Emergency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (301) 816 - 5100 (collect) <p>Report a Safety Concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (800) 695 - 7403 or - Allegation@nrc.gov <p>General Information or questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - www.nrc.gov <p>Select "What we do" for Public Affairs</p>	<p>For additional information:</p> <p>Regional Public Affairs Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victor Dricks - (817) 860 - 8128 <p>State Liaison Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William (Bill) Maier - (817) 860 - 8267



Questions and Answers

Annual Performance Assessment

Cooper Nuclear Station
April 6, 2004



Agenda

- ♦ Introduction Bill Fehrman
- ♦ Remarks Randy Edington
- ♦ Human Performance Stu Minahan
- ♦ Corrective Action Program Stu Minahan
- ♦ Unplanned Scrams Performance Indicator Stu Minahan
- ♦ Equipment Reliability Gary Kline
- ♦ Closing Remarks Randy Edington

Bill Fehrman

President and Chief Executive
Officer



Randy Edington

Vice President Nuclear –
Chief Nuclear Officer

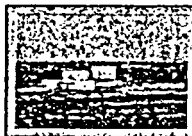


Stu Minahan

General Manager of Plant
Operations



Human Performance



Human Performance Analysis

- ◆ CNS Performance
- ◆ Individual – Not Organizational or Programmatic
- ◆ Routine Activities

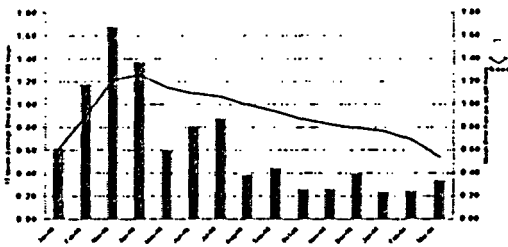
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Actions

- ◆ Key Procedure Review
- ◆ 3 Phase Rollout on Procedural Adherence
- ◆ HP Trainer Observation Skills
- ◆ Independent Issues Identification Team (IIIT)
- ◆ First Line Supervisor Interactions
- ◆ Shift Manager Interactions

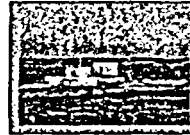
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Human Performance Error Rate



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Corrective Action Program



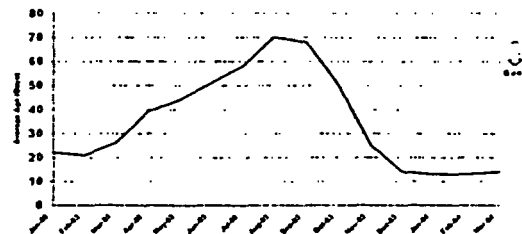
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Corrective Action Program

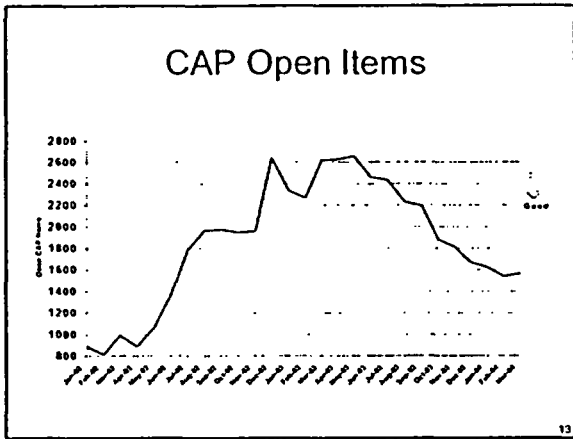
- ◆ Most Indicators Trending Right Direction
- ◆ SCR Reviews in Progress
- ◆ Focus at CARB on Interim Actions and Timeliness of Corrective Actions
- ◆ Focus on Closures (100% Review)
- ◆ Resolving Today's Problems Today

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CAP Evaluation Average Age



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Unplanned Scrams Performance Indicator

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- ### Unplanned Scrams Performance Indicator
- Scope
 - ♦ Approach to Balance of Plant (BOP) Equipment
 - ♦ Corrective Actions Going Forward
- 15

Gary Kline

General Manager of Engineering

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- ### Equipment Reliability
- ♦ Equipment Strategies
 - ♦ Infrastructure
 - ♦ Programs / Modifications
- 17

- ### Equipment Reliability
- ♦ Equipment Strategies
 - Balance of Plant Focus
 - Emergent Equipment Issues
 - Implementation of Long-Range Equipment Improvements
- 18

Equipment Reliability

- ◆ Infrastructure
 - Building Staff Strength and Performance
 - Equipment Reliability Process Initiatives
 - Continuing Engineering Roles and Responsibility Improvement

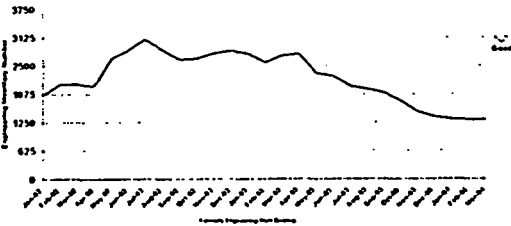
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Equipment Reliability

- ◆ Programs / Modifications
 - Engineering Programs Development
 - Optimizing Modification Process
 - Engineering Inventory

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Engineering Inventory



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Closing Remarks



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