



DRAFT WITHHOLD ~~SEE~~ Exemption-5 (23)
IN PART
UNITED STATES

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

R4-3B7

January XX, 2005

EA-04-131

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

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION: FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR
A GREEN FINDING [NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000298/2004014]

Dear Mr. Edington:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you the results of the final significance determination for a finding involving the failure to restore the Cooper Nuclear Station Division 2 service water gland seal water supply to a normal alignment following maintenance on the discharge strainer. This error, which occurred on January 21, 2004, resulted in Division 2 of the service water system and Emergency Diesel Generator 2 being inoperable for 21 days. The finding was documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000298/2004014, issued on August 12, 2004, and was assessed under the significance determination process as a preliminary Greater than Green finding. In the cover letter for NRC Inspection Report 05000298/2004014 we informed Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) of the NRC's preliminary conclusion, and provided NPPD an opportunity to request a regulatory conference on this matter.

At your request, a Regulatory Conference was held on September 27, 2004, to discuss your perspectives regarding the risk significance of this issue. The handouts that you provided at this meeting are enclosed. During the meeting, your staff described NPPD's assessment of the significance of the findings, including a detailed discussion of a service water pump test that you ran to determine the impact of running the pump without gland seal water. You also described the corrective actions that you took for the underlying performance deficiency and association violation of NRC requirements.

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NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, Appendix H defines LERF as, "The frequency of those accidents leading to significant, unmitigated releases from containment in a time frame prior to effective evacuation of the close-in population such that there is a potential for early health effects." NPPD:

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effective evacuation of the close-in population could be achieved prior to a release of radioactivity during the dominant sequences.

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You have 30 calendar days from the date of this letter to appeal the staff's determination of significance for the identified Green finding. Such appeals will be considered to have merit only if they meet the criteria given in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, Attachment 2. You are not required to respond to this letter unless the description herein does not accurately reflect your position, or if you choose to provide additional information.

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 www.nrc.gov.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Kriss Kennedy, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch C at 817-860-8144.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Director of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-298
License No.: DPR-46

Enclosures:

Ex. 5

cc w/Enclosure 1:
Clay C. Warren, Vice President of

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Nebraska Public Power District

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