



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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October 31, 2007

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SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOWUP LETTER – COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

On August 31, 2007, the NRC staff issued the mid-cycle performance review of the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) for the first half of the calendar year 2007 assessment cycle. In the letter that documented this review, the NRC staff indicated that it was in the process of reviewing whether or not the circumstances involving both a White performance indicator and a White finding constituted “double counting” as currently defined by Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, “Operating Reactor Assessment Program,” Section 06.06b. The results of our review are provided in this assessment followup letter, as described below.

During the first quarter of 2007, the Mitigating Systems Performance Index (MSPI) for Emergency AC Power Systems turned White and remained White at the end of the mid-cycle assessment period. This performance indicator turned White following a January 18, 2007, surveillance test in which Emergency Diesel Generator 2 (EDG 2) failed to run. As discussed in our August 17, 2007, letter (ADAMS ML072290167), this issue also resulted in a White finding because it involved a failure to promptly identify a significant condition adverse to quality that resulted in the reduced reliability of EDG 2.

Consistent with the guidance in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, the NRC staff performed a review of the EDG failure that was common to both the White performance indicator result and the White finding to determine whether or not the circumstances associated with this issue constitute “double counting” of a performance indicator and an inspection finding. On the basis of our review, the NRC staff has determined that the underlying causes for why the White performance indicator and inspection finding crossed the performance threshold are the same. Therefore, the two White inputs will be considered as one assessment input for the purposes of determining the level or regulatory oversight relative to the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix. As a result, CNS will remain in the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC’s Action Matrix.

The NRC staff plans to implement Supplemental Inspection Procedure 95001, “Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area,” to provide assurance that the root and contributing causes of both the White MSPI performance indicator and the White finding were understood and to provide assurance that the corrective actions were sufficient to address the causes, and prevent recurrence of problems. This inspection is scheduled for the week of December 3, 2007.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter 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/readingrm/adams.html> (The Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Michael C. Hay, of my staff, at (817) 860-8144 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

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SUNSI Review Completed: WCW ADAMS:  Yes  No Initials: WCW  
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