UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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July 18, 2008

Stewart B. Minahan, Vice
President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP LETTER – COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Minahan:

On June 17, 2008, the NRC staff completed, as part of our continuous review, an update of our assessment of Cooper Nuclear Station. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for a future supplemental inspection at your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supersede, our annual assessment letter issued on March 3, 2008.

On June 13, 2008, the NRC staff forwarded a letter concerning the final significance determination of a White inspection finding in the mitigating systems cornerstone. The finding was discussed with your staff during an exit meeting on March 18, 2008. The finding involved two procedures used by operators to bring the plant to a safe shutdown condition in the event of certain postulated fire scenarios. The procedures could not be performed as written. This performance deficiency involved the failure to properly verify and validate these infrequently used procedures. In addition, during the first quarter of 2008, a White finding involving the failure to promptly identify and correct a significant condition adverse to quality that resulted in the reduced reliability of Emergency Diesel Generator 2 was still in effect. Due to these two White findings, the NRC staff determined that during the first quarter of 2008 the mitigating systems cornerstone was degraded resulting in Cooper Nuclear Station performance being in the Degraded Cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix.

Consistent with the guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection using Inspection Procedure 95002, "Inspection for One Degraded Cornerstone or any Three White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," beginning the last half of 2008. This inspection procedure is conducted to provide assurance that the root and contributing causes for the individual and collective risk significant performance issues are understood, to independently assess the extent of condition, to provide assurance that the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence, and to independently determine if safety culture components caused or significantly contributed to the individual or collective (multiple White inputs) risk significant performance issues.

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

Please contact Geoffery Miller at 817-860-8144 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elmo E. Collins
Regional Administrator

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