UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

September 2, 2008

Stewart B. Minahan, Vice
President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Minahan:

On August 7, 2008, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Cooper Nuclear Station for the first half of the calendar year 2008 assessment cycle. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only - Security-Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance at Cooper Nuclear Station for the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on two White findings in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). The first White finding was identified on March 18, 2008, and it involved 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. The second White finding involved inadequate work instructions for maintenance activities that resulted in the failure of the Division 2 emergency diesel generator on January 15, 2008, from a loose electrical connection. In addition, a third White finding was still in effect during the first quarter of 2008 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. Due to these findings, the NRC staff determined that since the first quarter of 2008, the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone was degraded.

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 quarter 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 and collective (multiple White inputs) risk significant performance issues.

In our end-of-cycle performance assessment letter dated March 3, 2008, we advised you that the substantive crosscutting issue in the human performance component of resources involving the aspect of procedural guidance adequacy would remain open until it was determined that corrective actions would result in improved performance. Following the 2007 end-of-cycle assessment, Cooper Nuclear Station implemented a range of specific corrective actions to address station performance in the area of procedural adequacy including revising the procedure adequacy review process to include vendor manuals, revalidating abnormal and emergency operating procedures, hiring extra procedure writers, performing industry benchmarking trips, and reviewing procedural adequacy issues at daily management meetings. As a result of these efforts, there have been no findings with this crosscutting aspect issued since the last assessment period. Though there remains a theme in the resources aspect of inadequate procedural guidance with four findings over the past 12 months, the NRC does not have a concern with the scope of your efforts or your progress in addressing this issue. As a result, this substantive crosscutting issue will be closed. We will perform a confirmatory review of the actions you have taken to address this issue as part of the Inspection Procedure 95002 supplemental inspection, and we will continue to monitor the effectiveness of your actions through baseline inspection activities.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to security, scheduled through December 31, 2009. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Geoffrey Miller, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch C, at (817) 860-8144 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

Elmo E. Collins
Regional Administrator

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

Enclosure: Cooper Nuclear Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/Enclosure:

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SUNSI Review Completed: ✓ ADAMS: √ Yes □ No Initials: ✓
√ Publicly Available □ Non-Publicly Available □ Sensitive √ Non-Sensitive

R:_REACTORS\EOC and Midcycle\Midcycle Assessment Letters\2008\CNS.doc

RIV:PE:DRP/C	C:DRP/C	D:DRS	D:DRP	RA
DRBollock	GBMiller	RJCaniano	DDChamberlain	EECollins
/RA/	/RA/			
8/18/08	8/21/08	8/25/08	8/27/08	8/28/08

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY T=Telephone E=E-mail F=Fax

Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2008 - 12/31/2009

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	RP-ORS2	**- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA**	**1**			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		09/29/2008	10/03/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EP1	**- EP EXERCISE**	**3**			
1	IP 2515/175	Emergency Response Organization, Drill/Exercise Performance Indicator, Program Review		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
	REQUALIN	**- BIENNIAL REQUALIFICATION INSPECTION**	**3**			
1	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		11/17/2008	11/21/2008	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-17T	**- 50.59 & PERMANENT PLANT MODS**	**3**			
1	IP 7111117	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications		12/01/2008	12/12/2008	Baseline Inspections
	PSB2-52B	**- BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION**	**5**			
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		03/23/2009	03/27/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/06/2009	04/10/2009	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS3	**- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA**	**1**			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/13/2009	04/17/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/13/2009	04/17/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/13/2009	04/17/2009	Baseline Inspections
	EB1-21T	**- CDBI**	**6**			
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		05/18/2009	05/22/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection		06/01/2009	06/12/2009	Baseline Inspections
	RPTEAM	**- RADIATION SAFETY TEAM INSPECTION**	**5**			
1	IP 2515/173	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative		05/11/2009	05/15/2009	Generic Safety Inspecti
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		05/11/2009	05/15/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		05/11/2009	05/15/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		05/11/2009	05/15/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) And Radioactive Material Control Program		05/11/2009	05/15/2009	Baseline Inspections
	EP1	**- BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION**	**1**			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		07/06/2009	07/10/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		07/06/2009	07/10/2009	EP Baseline Inspection

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2008 - 12/31/2009

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	EP1	**- BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION**	**1**			
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		07/06/2009	07/10/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		07/06/2009	07/10/2009	EP Baseline Inspection
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/06/2009	07/10/2009	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-LRI	**- LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION**	**5**			
1	IP 71002	License Renewal Inspection		07/13/2009	07/17/2009	License Renewal Inspe
1	IP 71002	License Renewal Inspection		07/27/2009	07/31/2009	License Renewal Inspe
	EXAM	**- INITIAL EXAM**	**6**			
1	X02409	INITIAL EXAM-CNS (9/2009)		08/31/2009	09/04/2009	Not Applicable
1	X02409	INITIAL EXAM-CNS (9/2009)		09/21/2009	09/25/2009	Not Applicable
	EB1-08	**- INSERVICE INSPECTION**	**2**			
1	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		10/05/2009	11/02/2009	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS4	**- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY**	**1**			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/26/2009	10/30/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/26/2009	10/30/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/26/2009	10/30/2009	Baseline Inspections
	RP-ORS5	**- OCCUPATIONAL RADIATION SAFETY - ALARA**	**1**			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/16/2009	11/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		11/16/2009	11/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		11/16/2009	11/20/2009	Baseline Inspections
	EB2-07T	**- TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION**	**1**			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		12/07/2009	12/11/2009	Baseline Inspections

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