

January 21, 2009

Mr. Stewart B. Minahan
Chief Nuclear Officer, Vice President - Nuclear
Cooper Nuclear Station
Nebraska Public Power District
72676 648A Ave.
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS FOR LICENSE RENEWAL
FOR THE COOPER NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 1 (TAC NO. MD9763 AND
MD9737)

Dear Mr. Minahan:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has received your application by letter dated September 24, 2008, for the renewal of the Operating License No. DPR-46 for the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) Unit 1. In support of the application and in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 54, Nebraska Public Power District, (NPPD) submitted an environmental report (ER). This letter provides information related to the staff's review of the CNS ER.

The NRC has prepared a notice of intent advising the public that the NRC intends to gather information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," (NUREG-1437) related to the review of the application for the renewal of the CNS operating license. Enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Intent, which has been forwarded to the Office of the *Federal Register* for publication.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28, NPPD is invited to participate in the environmental scoping process. As discussed in the enclosed notice, the staff is providing the public with the opportunity to participate in two environmental scoping meetings on February 25, 2009. The first session will be held in the afternoon at the Brownville Concert Hall, at 126 Atlantic St., Brownville, NE 68321, telephone (402) 825-3331. The second session, covering the same subjects, will be held in the evening at the Auburn Senior Center, at 1101 J St., Auburn, NE 68305, telephone (402) 274 3420. During the meeting the NRC staff will present an overview of environmental, as well as safety, review processes and will describe how the processes will be implemented for the review of the CNS license renewal application.

A separate NRC meeting notice with a more detailed agenda is forthcoming. You will be provided a copy of that notice.

In the interim, should you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting, please contact the NRC's Project Managers, Tam Tran by telephone at (301) 415-3617 or by email at tam.tran@nrc.gov or Emmanuel Sayoc by telephone at (301) 415-1924 or by email at emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

IRA

David L. Pelton, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl.: See next page

A separate NRC meeting notice with a more detailed agenda is forthcoming. You will be provided a copy of that notice.

In the interim, should you have any questions regarding the scoping meeting, please contact the NRC's Project Managers, Tam Tran by telephone at (301) 415 3617 or by email at tam.tran@nrc.gov or Emmanuel Sayoc by telephone at (301) 415 1924 or by email at emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

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David L. Pelton, Chief
Projects Branch 1
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl.: See next page

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT AND CONDUCT SCOPING PROCESS
DOCKET NO. 50-298

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has submitted an application for renewal of Facility Operating License No. DPR-46 for an additional 20 years of operation at the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). CNS is located near Brownville, NE.

The operating license for CNS expires on January 18, 2014. The application for renewal, dated September 24, 2008, was submitted pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 54. A notice of receipt and availability of the application, which included the environmental report (ER), was published in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 2008 (73 FR 67896). A notice of acceptance for docketing of the application for renewal of the facility operating license was also published in the *Federal Register* on December 30, 2008 (73 FR 79921). The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) related to the review of the license renewal application and to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the environmental scoping process, as defined in 10 CFR 51.29. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, "Coordination with the National Environmental Policy Act," the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in meeting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

ENCLOSURE

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.53(c) and 10 CFR 54.23, NPPD submitted the ER as part of the application. The ER was prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51 and is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The Accession Number for the ER is ML083030246. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. The ER may also be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/cooper.html>. In addition, the ER is available for public inspection near CNS at the Auburn Memorial Library, 1810 Courthouse Ave., Auburn, NE 68305, telephone (402) 274-4023.

This notice advises the public that the NRC intends to gather the information necessary to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the Commission's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (NUREG-1437), related to the review of the application for renewal of the CNS operating license for an additional 20 years. Possible alternatives to the proposed action (license renewal) include no action and reasonable alternative energy sources. The NRC is required by 10 CFR 51.95 to prepare a supplement to the GEIS in connection with the renewal of an operating license. This notice is being published in accordance with NEPA and the NRC's regulations found in 10 CFR Part 51.

The NRC will first conduct a scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS and, as soon as practicable thereafter, will prepare a draft supplement to the GEIS for public comment. Participation in the scoping process by members of the public and local, State, Tribal, and

Federal government agencies is encouraged. The scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS will be used to accomplish the following:

- a. Define the proposed action which is to be the subject of the supplement to the GEIS.
- b. Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth.
- c. Identify and eliminate from detailed study those issues that are peripheral or that are not significant.
- d. Identify any environmental assessments and other EISs that are being or will be prepared that are related to, but are not part of, the scope of the supplement to the GEIS being considered.
- e. Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.
- f. Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of the environmental analyses and the Commission's tentative planning and decision-making schedule.
- g. Identify any cooperating agencies and, as appropriate, allocate assignments for preparation and schedules for completing the supplement to the GEIS to the NRC and any cooperating agencies.
- h. Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared, and include any contractor assistance to be used.

The NRC invites the following entities to participate in scoping:

- a. The applicant, Nebraska Public Power District.
- b. Any Federal agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved, or that is authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.

- c. Affected State and local government agencies, including those authorized to develop and enforce relevant environmental standards.
- d. Any affected Indian tribe.
- e. Any person who requests or has requested an opportunity to participate in the scoping process.
- f. Any person who has petitioned or intends to petition for leave to intervene.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.26, the scoping process for an EIS may include a public scoping meeting to help identify significant issues related to a proposed activity and to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The NRC has decided to hold public meetings for the CNS license renewal supplement to the GEIS. The scoping meetings will be held on February 25, 2009. There will be two sessions, an afternoon and evening session, to accommodate interested parties. The first session will be held at the Brownville Concert Hall at 126 Atlantic St., Brownville, NE 68321, telephone (402) 825-3331, and will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will be held at the Auburn Senior Center at 1101 J St., Auburn, NE 68305, telephone, (402) 274-3420, and will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Both meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) an overview by the NRC staff of the NEPA environmental review process, the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS, and the proposed review schedule; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to submit comments or suggestions on the environmental issues or the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour prior to the start of each session at the same location. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during the informal discussions.

To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing, as discussed below. Persons may register to attend or present oral comments at the meetings on the scope of the NEPA review by contacting the NRC Project Managers, Mr. Tam Tran, telephone at 1-800-368-5642, extension 3617, or by e-mail to the NRC at tam.tran@nrc.gov or Mr. Emmanuel Sayoc, by telephone at 1-800-368-5642, extension 1924, or by e-mail to the NRC at emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov, no later than February 18, 2009. Members of the public may also register to speak at the meeting within 15 minutes of the start of each session. Individual oral comments may be limited by the time available, depending on the number of persons who register. Members of the public who have not registered may also have an opportunity to speak, if time permits. Public comments will be considered in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS. Mr. Tam Tran or Mr. Sayoc will need to be contacted no later than February 18, 2009, if special equipment or accommodations are needed to attend or present information at the public meeting, so that the NRC staff can determine whether the request can be accommodated.

Members of the public may send written comments on the environmental scope of the KPS license renewal review to: Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this Federal Register notice. Comments may also be delivered to the NRC, Room T- 6D59, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. during Federal workdays. To be considered in the scoping process, written

comments should be postmarked by March 27, 2009. Electronic comments may be sent by e-mail to the NRC at CooperEIS@nrc.gov, and should be sent no later than March 23, 2009, to be considered in the scoping process. Comments will be available electronically and accessible through ADAMS at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>.

Participation in the scoping process for the supplement to the GEIS does not entitle participants to become parties to the proceeding to which the supplement to the GEIS relates. Notice of opportunity for a hearing regarding the renewal application was previously included in the *Federal Register* dated December 30, 2008 (73 FR 79921). Matters related to participation in any hearing are outside the scope of matters to be discussed at this public meeting.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC will prepare a concise summary of the determination and conclusions reached, including the significant issues identified, and will send a copy of the summary to each participant in the scoping process. The summary will also be available for inspection in ADAMS at <http://adamswebsearch.nrc.gov/dologin.htm>. The staff will then prepare and issue for comment the draft supplement to the GEIS, which will be the subject of separate notices and separate public meetings. Copies will be available for public inspection at the above-mentioned addresses, and one copy per request will be provided free of charge. After receipt and consideration of the comments, the NRC will prepare a final supplement to the GEIS, which will also be available for public inspection.

Information about the proposed action, the supplement to the GEIS, and the scoping process may be obtained from the Project Managers Mr. Sayoc and Mr. Tran at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail addresses.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of January, 2009.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

IRAI

David L. Pelton, Chief
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Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Cooper Nuclear Station

cc:

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Cooper Nuclear Station

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Cooper Nuclear Station

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