



# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180

Telephone: (573) 751-4115 ▲ Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TTY)

JOHN D. HOSKINS, Director

March 26, 2009

Richard E. Bulavinetz  
Aquatic Ecologist  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Bulavinetz:

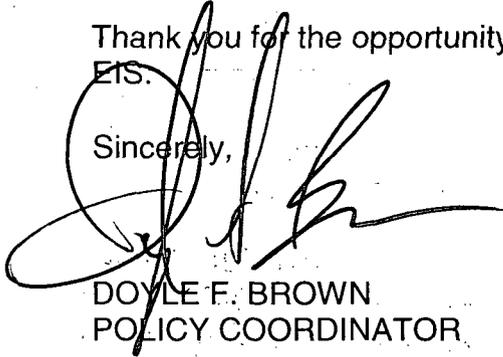
RE: COOPER NUCLEAR PLANT

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) understands the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application for the renewal of operating license DPR-46, which authorizes Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), to operate the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). The renewed license would authorize the applicant to operate CNS for an additional 20 years beyond the period specified in the current license. CNS is located near Brownville, NE, and its current operating license expires on January 18, 2014.

To complete this review, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared. MDC was asked by NRC for its comments regarding fish and wildlife issues germane to our shared border with Nebraska. MDC will keep its comments confined to the thermal discharge to the Missouri River associated with CNS's operation. MDC would ask NRC to evaluate the effects this plume of heated (~ 90 degrees) cooling water has on the aquatic habitats and communities, immediately within the vicinity of the discharge, including the federally endangered pallid sturgeon. Options to abate or minimize potential impacts should be explored and if a practical and reasonable solution is discovered, it should be made part of the conditions for the license renewal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and MDC looks forward to the findings of the EIS.

Sincerely,

  
DOYLE F. BROWN  
POLICY COORDINATOR

COMMISSION

DON R. JOHNSON  
Festus

CHIP MCGEEHAN  
Marshfield

LOWELL MOHLER  
Jefferson City

BECKY L. PLATTNER  
Grand Pass