

May 29, 2009

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

SUBJECT: ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE STAFF'S REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION BY THE  
NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT FOR RENEWAL OF THE  
OPERATING LICENSE FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 1 (TAC NO.  
MD9737)

Dear Mr. Minahan:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) conducted a scoping process, from January 27, 2009 through March 27, 2009, to determine the scope of the staff's environmental review of the application for renewal of the operating license for the Cooper Nuclear Station Unit 1 (CNS-1). As part of the scoping process, the staff held two public environmental scoping meetings in Brownville, Nebraska, and Auburn, Nebraska on February 25, 2009, to solicit public input regarding the scope of the review. The scoping process is the first step in the development of a plant-specific supplement to NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants (GEIS)," for CNS-1.

At the conclusion of the scoping process, the staff prepared the enclosed environmental scoping summary report identifying comments received during the scoping period. This consists of comments received at the February 25, 2009, license renewal environmental scoping meetings, by letter and by electronic mail. In accordance with 10 CFR 51.29(b), all participants of the scoping process will be provided with a copy of the scoping summary report. The transcripts of the scoping meetings are 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 transcripts for the afternoon and evening meetings are listed under Accession Nos. ML090840062 and ML090840063, respectively. 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.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov).

The next step in the environmental review process is the issuance of a draft supplement to the GEIS scheduled for December 2009. Notice of the availability of the draft supplement to the GEIS and the procedures for providing comments will be published in an upcoming *Federal Register* notice.

S. Minahan

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If you have any questions concerning the staff review of this license renewal application, please contact Emmanuel Sayoc at 301-415-2989 or by e-mail at [emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov](mailto:emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov), or Tam Tran at 301-415-3617 or by e-mail at [tam.tran@nrc.gov](mailto:tam.tran@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA/ Jay Robinson for***

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

S. Minahan

- 2 -

If you have any questions concerning the staff review of this license renewal application, please contact Emmanuel Sayoc at 301-415-2989 or by e-mail at [emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov](mailto:emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov), or Tam Tran at 301-415-3617 or by e-mail at [tam.tran@nrc.gov](mailto:tam.tran@nrc.gov).

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Docket No. 50-298

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/encl: see next page

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DATE	05/13/09	05/14/09	05/29/09	05/29/09

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Letter to S. Minahan from D. Pelton May 29, 2009

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**SUBJECT:** ISSUANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT  
ASSOCIATED WITH THE STAFF'S REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION BY THE  
NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT, FOR RENEWAL OF THE  
OPERATING LICENSE FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 1 (TAC NOS.  
MD9763 AND MD9737)

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Cooper Nuclear Station

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Cooper Nuclear Station

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**Environmental Impact Statement  
Scoping Process**

**Summary Report**

**Cooper Nuclear Station  
Unit 1  
Brownville, Nebraska**

**April 2009**



**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Rockville, Maryland**

ENCLOSURE

## Introduction

On September 30, 2009, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received an application from the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) dated August 28, 2007, for renewal of the operating license for the Cooper Nuclear Station Unit 1 (CNS-1). The CNS-1 is located in Brownville, NE. As part of the application, NPPD submitted an environmental report (ER) prepared in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51. 10 CFR Part 51 contains the NRC requirements for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Section 51.53 outlines requirements for preparation and submittal of ERs to the NRC.

Section 51.53(c)(3) was based upon the findings documented in NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (GEIS). The GEIS, in which the staff identified and evaluated the environmental impacts associated with license renewal, was first issued as a draft for public comment. The staff received input from Federal and State agencies, public organizations, and private citizens before developing the final document. As a result of the assessments in the GEIS, a number of impacts were determined to be small and to be generic to all nuclear power plants. These were designated as Category 1 impacts. An applicant for license renewal may adopt the conclusions contained in the GEIS for Category 1 impacts, absent new and significant information that may cause the conclusions to fall outside those of the GEIS. Category 2 impacts are those impacts that have been determined to be plant-specific and are required to be evaluated in the applicant's ER. The Commission determined that the NRC does not have a role in energy planning decision-making for existing plants, which should be left to State regulators and utility officials. Therefore, an applicant for license renewal need not provide an analysis of the need for power, or the economic costs and economic benefits of the proposed action. Additionally, the Commission determined that the ER need not discuss any aspect of storage of spent fuel for the facility that is within the scope of the generic determination in 10 CFR 51.23(a) and in accordance with 10 CFR 51.23(b). This determination was based on the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and the Commission's Waste Confidence Rule, 10 CFR 51.23.

On January 26, 2009, the NRC published a notice of intent in the *Federal Register* (74 FR 4476), to notify the public of the staff's intent to prepare a plant-specific supplement to the GEIS regarding the renewal application for the CNS-1 operating license. The plant-specific supplement to the GEIS will be prepared in accordance with NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and 10 CFR Part 51. As outlined by NEPA, the NRC initiated the scoping process with the issuance of the *Federal Register* Notice. The NRC invited the applicant, Federal, State, and local government agencies, local organizations, and individuals to participate in the scoping process by providing oral comments at the scheduled public meetings and/or submitting written suggestions and comments before the end of the scoping period on March 27, 2009. The scoping process included two public scoping meetings, which were held, on February 25, 2009, at the Brownville Concert Hall, 126 Atlantic St., Brownville, NE 68321, and the Auburn Senior Center, 1101 J St., Auburn, NE 68305. The NRC issued press releases, and distributed flyers locally. Approximately 110 people attended the meetings. Both sessions began with NRC staff members providing a brief overview of the license renewal process and the NEPA process. Following the NRC's prepared statements, the meetings were open for public comments. Twelve (12) attendees provided either oral comments or written statements



that were recorded and transcribed by a certified court reporter. The transcripts of the meetings can be found as an attachment to the meeting summary, which was issued on April 15, 2009. The meeting summary is available for public inspection in 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://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. The accession number for the meeting summary is ML090910490 (meeting transcripts, ML090840062 and ML090840063). 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.resource@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr.resource@nrc.gov).

The scoping process provides an opportunity for public participation to identify issues to be addressed in the plant-specific supplement to the GEIS and highlight public concerns and issues. The notice of intent identified the following objectives of the scoping process:

- Define the proposed action
- Determine the scope of the supplement to the GEIS and identify significant issues to be analyzed in depth
- Identify and eliminate peripheral issues
- Identify any environmental assessments and other environmental impact statements being prepared that are related to the supplement to the GEIS
- Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements
- Indicate the schedule for preparation of the supplement to the GEIS
- Identify any cooperating agencies
- Describe how the supplement to the GEIS will be prepared

At the conclusion of the scoping period, the NRC staff and its contractor reviewed the transcripts and all written material received, and identified individual comments. Five (5) letters, and one e-mail that contained comments were also received during the scoping period. All comments and suggestions received orally during the scoping meetings or in writing were considered. Each set of comments from a given commenter was given a unique alpha identifier (Commenter ID letter), allowing each set of comments from a commenter to be traced back to the transcript, letter, or e-mail in which the comments were submitted. Some commenters submitted comments through multiple sources (e.g., letter and afternoon or evening scoping meetings). Comments were consolidated and categorized according to the topic within the proposed supplement to the GEIS or according to the general topic if outside the scope of the GEIS. Comments with similar specific objectives were combined to capture the common essential

issues that had been raised in the source comments. Once comments were grouped according to subject area, the staff and contractor determined the appropriate action for the comment.

Table 1 identifies the individuals providing comments and the Commenter ID letter associated with each person's set(s) of comments. The Commenter ID letter is preceded by CNS-1. For oral comments, the individuals are listed in the order in which they spoke at the public meeting. Accession numbers indicate the location of the written comments in ADAMS.

**TABLE 1 - Individuals Providing Comments During Scoping Comment Period**

<b>Commenters ID</b>	<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Affiliation (If Stated)</b>	<b>Comment Source and ADAMS Accession Number<sup>(a)</sup></b>
CNS-1-A	Martin Hansen	Village Board of Brownville	Afternoon Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-B	Glen Krueger	Member of the Public	Afternoon Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-C	Becky Cromer	Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise	Afternoon Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-D	Arnold Ehlers	City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Nebraska City, Nebraska	Afternoon Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-E	James Gerwick	Emergency Management Director for Richardson County, Nebraska	Afternoon Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-F	Robert Cole	Nemaha County Emergency Management Director	Evening Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-G	Rod Vandeberg	Mayor of Falls City, Nebraska	Evening Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-H	Larry Shepard	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Evening Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-I	Bob Engles	Mayor of Auburn, Nebraska	Evening Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-J	Kendall Neiman	Auburn Chamber of Commerce	Evening Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-K	David Sickel	County Commissioner Richardson County	Evening Scoping Meeting
CNS-1-L	Ron Asche	Nebraska Public Power District	Evening Scoping Meeting

<b>Commenters ID</b>	<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Affiliation (If Stated)</b>	<b>Comment Source and ADAMS Accession Number<sup>(a)</sup></b>
CNS-1-M	Alan Richard	Pawnee City Development Corporation	Letter (ML090720067)
CNS-1-N	Ashtin Paris	Deputy Clerk City of Rock Port	Letter (ML090720068)
CNS-1-O	James Gerwick	Emergency Management Director for Richardson County, Nebraska	Letter (ML090720066)
CNS-1-P	Larry Separd	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Email (ML091070269)
CNS-1-Q	Jill Dolberg	Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office	Letter (ML090650061)
CNS-1-R	Jean Angell	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources	Letter (ML090860762)

(a) The accession number for the afternoon transcript is ML090840062  
The accession number for the evening transcript is ML090840063

The comments and suggestions received as part of the scoping process are documented in this section and the disposition of each comment is discussed. Comments are grouped by category. There were two categories as follows:

1. Comments in support of license renewal at CNS-1
2. General comments regarding the license renewal review of Cooper Nuclear Station, Unit 1

Each comment is summarized in the following pages. For reference, the unique identifier for each comment (Commenter ID letter listed in Table 1 plus the comment number) is provided. In those cases where no new environmental information was provided by the commenter, no further evaluation will be performed.

The preparation of the plant-specific supplement to the GEIS (which is the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)) will take into account all the relevant issues raised during the scoping process. The SEIS will address both Category 1 and 2 issues, along with any new information identified as a result of scoping. The SEIS will rely on conclusions supported by information in the GEIS for Category 1 issues, and will include the analysis of Category 2 issues and any new and significant information. The draft plant-specific supplement to the GEIS will be made available for public comment. The comment period will offer the next opportunity for the applicant, interested Federal, State, and local government agencies, local organizations, and members of the public to provide input to the NRC's environmental review

process. The comments received on the draft SEIS will be considered in the preparation of the final SEIS. The final SEIS, along with the staff's safety evaluation report (SER), will provide much of the basis for the NRC's decision on the NPPD license renewal application.

**Cooper Nuclear Station, Unit 1  
Public Scoping Meeting  
Comments and Responses**

**1. Support for License Renewal at Cooper Nuclear Station, Unit 1**

**Comment:** My name is Martin Hansen, a member of the Village Board of Brownville. I'm filling in for our chairman, Marty Hayes, today. I would like to welcome the members of the Nuclear Regulatory System to our community for this meeting. Brownville, while being a small community, we see the importance of Cooper Nuclear Station. It is, of course, the largest employer in our community and throughout southeastern Nebraska. But for our community, it is a little more than that. This community was here when the construction on Cooper started nearly 40 years ago. We are here on each day of operation which is around the clock. Cooper continues to operate safely and our community of Brownville appreciates that very much.

Cooper is a partner with the community. It has lent us support. One of the examples is the Village of Brownville Volunteer Fire Department. The management of Cooper has allowed our group of dedicated fire fighters to utilize their training facilities that has enhanced its firefighting capabilities and has cooperated in an effort and has enabled our department to upgrade its equipment and training capabilities over a number of years. I'm sure that you will hear a lot more from other communities about the economic impact of Cooper on the community and the importance it has on the economy. A 2002 economic study found that there would be detrimental impact to not only Brownville, but to other communities in this area, so Cooper is important to continue operation through the license extension of 20 years.

Emergency response is an important part of Cooper operation, and any need for that action to take place would be handled in a manner that is both professional and done for the protection of the public. Cooper Emergency Response organization takes it very seriously and each resident in a 10-mile zone around Cooper always receives the appropriate information about any possible emergency response activity on the site and would have comfort of knowledge that these plans are in place and tested annually.

Earlier this month, the Village Board of Brownville unanimously approved a resolution in support of Nebraska Public Power District at Cooper Nuclear Station license renewal for an additional 20 years. I would like to read that resolution into the official record at this time.  
Resolution No. 2-2-09-1.

“WHEREAS, the Nebraska Public Power District Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville became operational with startup in 1974 and has operated safely and efficiently for more than 30 years and its 828 megawatts of electricity generated; and  
WHEREAS, the Village of Brownville has had a longstanding history with Cooper Nuclear Station since the plant's construction, through refueling outages, and day-to-day operations; and  
WHEREAS, the Village of Brownville Volunteer Fire Department has been able to utilize training facilities to enhance the firefighting capabilities and this cooperative effort has allowed the department to upgrade equipment in training firefighters over the years;

WHEREAS, Nebraska Public Power District has continually reinvested in the Cooper Nuclear Station facility to access continued safety, clean, reasonable, and affordable production of electricity for Nebraskans across the State; and

WHEREAS, the Cooper Nuclear Station is a critical asset as part of Nebraska Public Power District generation resources and the state's unique public power system, continues to assist in keeping state electricity rates among the lowest in the country;

WHEREAS, more than 700 permanent jobs at Cooper Nuclear Station and extensive use of contractors in ongoing maintenance and refueling outages are organized and important to the economy of the Village of Brownville, Nemaha County, and surrounding communities in southeastern Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, a 2002 economic study of the impact of the loss of Cooper Nuclear Station would be detrimental to the Village of Brownville and other communities in southeast Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission is the federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's vital nuclear facilities and encouraged public input and comment on license renewal and process from the neighborhood and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Cooper Nuclear Station has continued to be a good neighbor to Brownville for more than three decades;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Brownville Council supports the renewal of the license for the nuclear generation facility at Cooper Nuclear Station, and to assure their continued operations of safe, affordable, and important component of Nebraska's public power supply system for another 20 years; but

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Brownville clerk is directed to make available copies of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at its upcoming Environment Scope Public Meeting.”

Again, I wish to thank the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for hosting this important public meeting, and we'll make ourselves available to you if you have any questions of us, thank you.  
(CNS-1-A)

**Comment:** My name is Glen Krueger and I was the hospital administrator, and I don't think the present one is here at this time. I was the hospital administrator. I came in 1971, so was there when it was started and I retired in 2002. And I would like to say that we have had a full and wonderful cooperation with the Nebraska Public Power District for emergency services. We were able to send an employee down to Tennessee to learn more about radiation. Yes, we were learning more when it first started up, but we finally came that we were very comfortable, that we knew how to take care of if an accident did happen over here. We had full cooperation from them and I would totally support this new license.

But, also, as a citizen of Auburn, I would like to restate and I would like to have this new permit be renewed, because of the need that we have in the City of Auburn, if the need -- the people that work there. We have a lot of those employees who work in our church and a lot of those employees, in fact, I have three of those employees in my block where I live. Very appreciative of them. (CNS-1 -B)

**Comment:** I also would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here this afternoon. My name is Beckie Cromer. I'm Executive Director of our Falls City Economic Development and Growth Enterprise. And I'm here this afternoon on behalf of the economic development team from

Falls City. We would like to confirm our unwavering support for the 20-year license extension of Cooper Nuclear Station. Falls City EDGE did pass a resolution of support for the 20-year license extension, and we have forwarded that resolution to NPPD officials, although, after reading the materials here today, I think we'll also forward that NRC with the information provided within the packets today. And in addition to that, our mayor will be speaking in support of Nebraska Public Power District this evening, as well.

Cooper Nuclear Station is an economic development gem that injects millions into our local economy by providing almost 800 jobs that pay more than double the Nebraska state average. The decommissioning of Cooper Nuclear Station would result in monumental loss of revenue and jobs for our southeast Nebraska area. Additionally, Cooper Nuclear Station runs a very safe operation. It allows Nebraska to offer a diverse portfolio of power to our citizens.

I had the opportunity to tour Cooper Nuclear Station this week with many Falls City community leaders. The facility was top notch. The staff was professional and knowledgeable, and the safety measures in place for workers and the surrounding public exceeds benchmarks set by government agencies.

Southeast Nebraska is proud to have Cooper Nuclear Station as a partner in economic development and we ask that you grant the licensing request being made by Cooper Nuclear Station. Thank you. (CNS-1 -C)

**Comment:** Good afternoon. My name is Arnold Ehlers, City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Nebraska City, Nebraska. I am here to present a resolution passed unanimously by the City Council and Mayor of Nebraska City, supporting the license renewal of Cooper Nuclear Station. I would also like to make you aware of the economic impact Cooper Nuclear Station has on southeast Nebraska, as well as southwestern Iowa and northwest Missouri, an economic impact that is over \$500 million a year. But the economic impact is just one part of the contribution made by Nebraska Public Power District and its employees. NPPD employees belong to volunteer fire departments, serve on library boards, school boards, and many other boards and committees too numerous to mention. Their spouses and families are also very important contributors to the communities in which they live.

Over the years, Cooper has been a good safe partner and good neighbor to all of us. They have attracted employees from around the world, enhancing the multicultural experiences of the area. We've actually become a global community due to this. It is a privilege to live in a public power state and in a city that owns its own utilities. Nebraska City, in fact all of Nebraska, benefits from the low-cost electricity that Cooper Nuclear plays a significant role in providing.

I have a resolution that I would like to have entered into the record. I won't bore you with the reading of it, unless it needs to be read. I thank you for this opportunity. (CNS-1-D)

**Comment:** Good afternoon. Many thanks to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for hosting this public forum. My name is Jim Gerwick, and I'm the Emergency Management Director for Richardson County, Nebraska, the county just south of here.

In my position, hardly a month has gone by where some form of interchange has not transpired between Cooper Nuclear Station's Emergency Management Department and other nuclear operations staff and my office in Richardson County. The referenced activities include quarterly emergency communication drills, unannounced communications checks, written correspondence involving improvements in emergency plans and training in many forms, to include FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, evaluated radiological emergency preparedness exercises.

Other joint training activities include NPPD staff involvement in annual training of our local radiological emergency response organization, and our joint quarterly off-site training meetings.

Cooper Nuclear Station has fully demonstrated its ability to provide safe, reliable electricity for the citizens of the state of Nebraska. Richardson County has supported Cooper Nuclear Station in its off-site responsibilities to protect the public and property for many years, since the plant started, actually, and is glad to be part of the team that supports nuclear power. The bottom line in our realm of experience, the staff at NPPD and Cooper Nuclear Station is thoroughly professional and meticulous in attention to detail concerning their approach to public safety. In short, they are fully integrated and a key member of our public safety team.

And in view of their professional performance and contributions to our community, we support NPPD's application to continue to operate Cooper Nuclear Station for another 20 years.

In closing, Richardson County is proud to have Cooper Nuclear Station in the Richardson County area. (CNS-1-E)

**Comment:** Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm Robert Cole. I'm the Nemaha County Emergency Management Director. I wanted to make a few short statements. I've already submitted a letter of support on the relicensing application; however, I wanted to touch on a few of the highlights that I mentioned in the letter.

One of the great things about our relationship with Cooper Nuclear Plant is that they have been good partners for the communities that they are neighbors to. One example of that would be the fact that most of my day today was spent taking delivery on sirens that Cooper Nuclear has donated for several local communities in the area, both in Nebraska and Missouri, that lacked operational or modern sirens. These retired sirens from Cooper, although they are dating back to the 1970s, are well maintained and very functional and will certainly be a vital asset to communities that could not otherwise afford replacement of their siren equipment. That's a real benefit to everybody.

Also, my relationship with Cooper has been excellent. I correspond or talk to Cooper representatives at least monthly, generally more often, in regard to emergency planning exercises and just day-to-day communications checks. Every time I have talked to somebody from the station, they have always been very professional and very competent, and I have very great confidence in the plant and their operations. It's a joy to be here in Nemaha County, and one of that joys is serving the County in this relationship to Cooper Nuclear. Thanks very much for the opportunity to be here. (CNS-1-F)



**Comment:** Good evening. I have prepared comments which I'd be happy to give to you if you would like them at the end of the meeting. I apologize. I maybe have gotten a little bit too lengthy, but I'll try to talk fast.

My name is Rod Vandenberg, and I am the mayor of Falls City, Nebraska. Falls City is a community of 4,200, and is located about 20 miles south of Cooper Nuclear Station as you head toward the Nebraska/Kansas border.

Interestingly, I personally had the opportunity, along with 18 community members from Falls City, to tour Cooper Nuclear Station last Monday. I can speak for myself and the others who took the tour that we were very impressed by the serious and cordial manner in which NPPD employees were watching out for our personal safety while we were on tour, and also by the extent of the security presence at the site. This opportunity gave us all a little better first-hand look at Cooper Nuclear Station, which many of us had not seen, but have heard so much about over the years. Perhaps properly so, Cooper is a well kept secret. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated with us in that tour. We had the opportunity to hear from the gentleman who heads the management company. And then we had the opportunity to be with several NPPD employees. And it was really an outstanding experience.

The impact of going inside such a facility and seeing how well the facility is maintained and how expansive the facility is, how it serves to protect employees, public, and the environment was time well spent. I want to thank NPPD for this opportunity.

Several months ago, I sat in a breakfast meeting right here in this building in Auburn and heard from your CEO, Ron Asche, and other NPPD employees about the license renewal process, what the needs for extending of licensing of Cooper for an additional 20 years means, and what does that mean not only for my community, but all of Nebraska. What I learned is that NPPD has put an extensive amount of money into facility improvements for safety and operations of the facility so that it can be an operation that will be able to operate safely and efficiently for an additional 20 years. What I also heard at that time was that replacing Cooper would take several billion dollars to construct another generating facility, probably using coal as fuel to replace the electric generation of Cooper. Just getting a facility sited may be a significant task, and replacing Cooper with that kind of facility may not be the most environmentally friendly one, as Cooper does not generate any greenhouse gases from its nuclear operations.

I realize that there are numerous areas that are required to be reviewed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission related to the license renewal application, many dealing with the environment, another part on how equipment is expected to last if Cooper Nuclear Station were to operate another 20 years. As I heard at our meeting in the fall, Nebraska Public Power District's Board of Directors has had the foresight to invest millions of dollars into the operation in order to continue that operation in a safe manner, and that is what we expect for the residents of Falls City, Richardson County, and southeast Nebraska.

Our community leaders in Falls City also heard from NPPD, at my request, to tell us more about the license renewal in a luncheon session in Falls City two or three months ago. Many in the room that day have had contact with Cooper employees, both personal or for business reasons, for we

have a contingent of employees that reside in Falls City and Richardson County, 101 employees to be exact.

From a socio-economic aspect, that number is important in small communities such as Falls City. Cooper employees do business in our community. They are part of community activities, and they support our schools and services. These individuals operate an important electric generation for Nebraska, and they do it safely in a nuclear operation. On our tour, we were able to get a peek at a control room simulator and what these highly trained employees must train to do. The requirements are rigorous to meet the requirements to become a licensed operator.

A loss of Cooper would cause a severe negative impact on Falls City as would it be for all of southeastern Nebraska.

NPPD's CEO, Ron Asche, spoke to us last year about several maintenance issues at the plant. He could have easily passed over telling us that information, but he chose to do so, and he expressed confidence to us that NPPD would resolve these issues to the satisfaction of the NRC and return Cooper to the top level of operations for nuclear power plants in the country. And as I have learned, those words have been put into action and those findings have been resolved. Frankly, I believe Cooper is one of the safest nuclear plants in the United States.

I, and the members of the City Council of Falls City, recently passed a unanimous resolution of support for Cooper Nuclear Station's license extension for an additional 20 years. We feel that it is an important asset for southeast Nebraska and Nebraska in general, and I would like for this resolution to be included in the official meeting transcript tonight.

I want to thank the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for taking the time to hear from communities such as ours on this very important issue, not only locally, but nationally, as we work towards future energy independence. Thank you very much. (CNS-1-G)

**Comment:** Good evening. Thank you, Dave. And I'd like to thank the NRC. I'd also like to thank the cities and counties of southeastern Nebraska for the opportunity to attend this scoping meeting. My name is Larry Shepard. I'm an environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in our Kansas City Regional Office. EPA has 10 regional offices around the country. Our regional office is responsible for EPA program activities in Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska.

My point in speaking tonight was just to help everyone tonight to understand what EPA's role is in this process, this relicensing process. EPA will be reviewing the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and providing comment, but also in actually scoring both the document and the project itself. And we will also, in addition to that, be providing comment -- scoping comment to NRC by the March 27<sup>th</sup> deadline. And that was really my whole purpose. If anyone has any questions after the meeting, I'll be hanging around also. Thank you very much. (CNS-1-H)

**Comment:** Good evening. My name is Bob Engles, and I'm the mayor of Auburn, Nebraska. I'd like to thank the NRC for this opportunity and specifically for holding this public forum. As I was watching the NRC presentation, safety review and environmental impact studies were mentioned as key parts of the process. I trust that both NPPD and the NRC will conduct a

thorough process to identify issues that must be addressed in these areas so that Cooper Nuclear Station can continue operating for an additional 20 years.

That's exactly why I'm here. I'm here in support of extending the license for Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station. I'll speak just a little bit about the socio-economic impact on my city in particular. From a practical standpoint, I'm not sure it makes sense to discard a proven and effective method of power generation, especially when it has served Auburn, Nemaha County, and the state of Nebraska for so many years as a safe and reliable source of electrical generation for the last 35 years in a manner that has protected the public and the environment.

Cooper Nuclear Station is an economic stimulus to Auburn and southeast Nebraska. Their footprint is a stabilizing factor in our community's economy. For example, they employ approximately 720 people, and half of those people live in Nemaha County; 234 of those people live in Auburn.

The plant's annual payroll is approximately \$55 million. Over \$17 million of that payroll goes to people that live in Auburn, and with just a little bit of math, that shows that the average income per employee living in Auburn is about \$75,000. These employees are highly educated, highly trained and skilled, and they do a quality job day in and day out with safety as their prime responsibility.

Cooper employees have become a part of the fabric of this community over the years. They live here. They're involved in community activities. They're involved in our churches; they frequent the business community; they are involved in youth activities and social events within our community.

These people are our friends. They're our neighbors. Their kids attend our schools. They volunteer their time to make Auburn and southeast Nebraska a better place in which to live.

Late last year, following NPPD's submittal of a license renewal application, Ron Asche, CEO and President of NPPD, which owns Cooper, held a series of meetings within the community with myself and other elected officials from other communities and the business community. Mr. Asche pointed out that NPPD's Board of Directors has invested over \$300 million in improvements to Cooper in preparation for the license extension. NPPD is serious about making these improvements that will enhance the safety of the operations, as well as continuing to generate low-cost electricity, something that Nebraskans expect and which NPPD is mandated under state law to do.

-Several years ago, NPPD discussed the possibility of closing Cooper. This community was concerned about that, primarily because of the impact on the economy of Auburn and southeast Nebraska. Closing Cooper would have been unfortunate. But NPPD's Board of Directors saw the value in keeping the facility operating and have done a great job in moving forward with the safe operations of the facility, something that was expected to continue for another 20 years.

Indeed, all Nebraskans benefit from the operation of Cooper Nuclear Station. Auburn has benefited from Cooper's operations directly, even though the plant is 10 miles away. Nebraska Public Power District has two facilities in our community that we believe are important for the operations of the site. The former Sheridan Elementary School has been transformed into a training center for Cooper employees and the many contractors who come into the community

every 18 months for refueling outages. We believe that the training facility plays a great part of the strong environmental responsibility and safe operations of the facility each day.

A second facility was remodeled in our downtown area and houses a state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center which would operate as needed. Exercises are held on a regular basis from that facility, including ones with local emergency management personnel from southeast Nebraska.

As mayor, I'm confident in the ability of NPPD to operate and manage in a safe manner. What we may hear from people that are concerned about safety issues, we can all be concerned about safety issues. But throughout the years, I've come to know that the people at Cooper and NPPD have confidence and that they understand the risks associated with nuclear power generation and that they have been and continue to do everything in their power to ensure my safety and our community's safety, because the same people that are working at NPPD Cooper Nuclear Station live in Auburn. They live in Brownville, Nemaha County, Falls City, and Nebraska City.

And at this time, I'd like to introduce into the formal record a resolution that our City Council passed a while back unanimously approving support for the extension of the Cooper Nuclear Station license.

And once again, I'd like to thank the NRC for hosting these meetings in our community, and if there's anything our town can do to help you further this process, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you. (CNS-1-I)

**Comment:** Good evening. My name is Kendall Neiman and I'm President of Auburn Chamber of Commerce, and also the publisher of the Nemaha County Herald, the local weekly newspaper here. On behalf of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, I'm expressing full support for the Nebraska Public Power District's application to extend the Cooper Nuclear Station for an additional 20 years.

We believe that Cooper's safety and performance speaks for NPPD's expertise in nuclear plant operations. Several years ago, it appeared that NPPD might close down the Cooper Nuclear Station. This was something that southeastern Nebraska could not afford to have happen. A community group had an economic study done that gave us a look at what we could see locally if the facility was closed. That was about six years ago, and that picture was not very pretty. Devastating might be a better word. If Cooper Nuclear were not to continue operating after its current license expires, we could see those impacts all over southeastern Nebraska.

Over 700 employees live, work, shop, and are involved in the communities in southeastern Nebraska. A majority of these employees live right here in Auburn and Nemaha County. They are contributors to the community, but they are also workers at the nuclear power plant that emphasizes nuclear safety of all as a top priority.

I recently attended an open house held by NPPD in the Cooper Nuclear facility and was able to learn more about the license extension, safety, emergency response, and other operations of the facility. It's very complex, but I found that the people that I talked to, to be very knowledgeable and they were concerned with safety of the operations, but they were very proud of what they do on a daily basis. It is our hope that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's review of the license

application will be thorough in both the environmental review as well as the safety review of the Cooper Nuclear Station as required for license renewal. We believe that NPPD has done an excellent job in the operation of the facility as they have turned out a record generation year in 2007, have maintained a strong safety culture for the safety of the employees and the public, and maintained a high visible emergency response operation with local governments and continue to watch over a reliable generating source of electricity for Nebraskans with a watchful eye.

The Auburn Chamber of Commerce supports this license renewal extension and look forward to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's review of the facility and seeing a 20-year extension added to the existing license of the facility. Again, thank you for coming to Auburn and giving the community an opportunity to be heard. (CNS-1-J)

**Comment:** My name is David Sickel. I'm one of the three County Commissioners from Richardson County. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to speak to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning the extension of the Cooper Nuclear Station's license for an additional 20 years.

While Richardson County may be somewhat outside the influence of Cooper Nuclear Station's operations, it is important to acknowledge that over the years this facility has been able to operate in a safe and effective manner for the residents of Nebraska. It is important that a complete review of the environmental impacts for 20 more years of operation be studied thoroughly by both the Nebraska Public Power District and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

As I understand another critical phase is a safety review. Again, this is important this type of review be conducted to ensure that equipment at the facility can operate an additional 20 years without having the impact on employee and public safety. The fact that much of this information is available to the public and can have public involvement is an important aspect of the entire process.

Cooper Nuclear Station is an important part of our community. It operates safely. The employees at Cooper are highly trained. Cooper generates a reliable source of electricity for the people of the state of Nebraska. Employees reside in communities such as Richardson County. Over the years, the presence of Cooper employees in southeast Nebraska has been an important part of our economy, our schools, or business community, and the community in which these folks live. The impact on this area from the loss of Cooper operations would create an economic hardship when you consider those losses. That loss would impact Richardson County, southeast Nebraska, and the complete state of Nebraska.

On behalf of the citizens of Richardson County, we are in support of the extension of the Cooper Nuclear Station's license renewal for an additional 20 years.

In a letter that I wrote to NPPD's CEO and President, Ron Asche, I explained that Richardson County was proud to have Cooper Nuclear Station in the Richardson County area. Cooper Nuclear Station clearly demonstrated its ability to provide safe and reliable electricity for citizens of Nebraska. I would like to mention that as the only public power state in the country, we enjoy having the fifth lowest cost electricity rates in the United States. Richardson County, through its Emergency Management has supported the facility in its off-site responsibilities to protect the

public for many years, and we are glad to be part of that team that supports Cooper and nuclear power.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you this evening. (CNS-1-K)

**Comment:** I'm Ron Asche, the President and CEO of Nebraska Public Power District, the owner and operator of Cooper Nuclear Station. We began our process of compiling our license renewal application several years ago, and submitted that to the NRC in September of this past year. These public meetings tonight conducted by the NRC are a very important process in that relicensing process. They provide an opportunity for members of the local communities that surround Cooper Station and for other interested stakeholders to provide input directly to the NRC regarding our license application and any issues that they may have regarding the environmental impacts of extending Cooper's license for another 20 years, as well as any public safety issues that they may have. And I'd like to thank all of those that came this evening to express their comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, both in these meetings today and for comments that you might submit via letter or e-mail, et cetera. These are a very important part of that process.

I want to close just by saying that NPPD is committed to operating Cooper Station, both now and in the future, in a manner that protects the health and safety of the public and all of our employees and workers at the plant, as well as protecting the environment. We look forward to working together with the NRC over the course of the next several years in addressing issues that may arise, which we hope will ultimately result in an extension of our license for another 20 years to operate Cooper Station and continue to provide low cost, reliable, and safe energy to the members of our communities and the state of Nebraska as a whole. Thank you. (CNS-1-L)

Comment:



**PAWNEE CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**P.O. Box 85  
Pawnee City, NE 68420**

***Pawnee City - "Pleasant Past, Progressive Future"***

Chief, Rulemaking  
Directives and Editing Branch  
Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration  
Mailstop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

12/30/08

73 FR 79921

(2)

To Whom It May Concern:

The Pawnee City Economic Development Corporation is submitting this letter to support the renewal of the license for Cooper Nuclear Station operated by Nebraska Public Power in southeast Nebraska. Our group recognizes the importance of the Station in providing low cost and safe energy to our region. We can assure any potential business, that the Station is committed to safety by their safe operations for the past 40 years and their investment of \$300 million to upgrade the facility. Their trained workforce has a strong economic impact on our area. We do not see any negative environmental impact with this facility but if it were to be replaced by a coal-powered plant, we do not think that would be the case. We urge you to approve the license renewal so we have good, clean, green energy for years to come.

Sincerely,

Alan Richard  
President, Pawnee City Development Corporation

RECEIVED

73 MAR 10 AM 10:06

RULES AND DIRECTIVES  
BRANCH  
OFFICE

SONSI Review Complete  
Template = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03

Att. = E. SAYOC (ECS3)

(CNS-1-M)

Comment:



500 South Main  
Rock Port, MO 64482

Phone 660-744-2636 • FAX 660-744-5553  
rpcityhall@rpt.coop

February 27, 2009

12/30/08

73 FR 79921

(3)

RECEIVED

2009 MAR 11 AM 10:04

RULES AND DIRECTIVES  
BRANCH  
12/30/08

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services  
Office of Administration  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mailstop T-6D 59  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

To whom it may concern:

Please find enclosed a copy of Resolution #2009-1 supporting Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal passed by the City of Rock Port on February 18, 2009.

Sincerely,

Ashtin Paris  
Deputy Clerk  
City of Rock Port

SONET Review Complete  
Template = ADM-013

(CNS-1-N)

En-RDS = ADM-03  
Call = E. Soyoc (ECS3)



**RESOLUTION # 2009-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
OF THE CITY OF ROCK PORT, MISSOURI  
Supporting Nebraska Public Power District's  
Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal**

**WHEREAS**, Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville became operational with startup in 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, Cooper Nuclear Station has operated safely and efficiently for more than 30 years, generated a record 6.6 million megawatt hours of electricity in 2007, and its 828 megawatts of electrical generating capacity remains vital to Nebraska's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Nebraska Public Power District has continually reinvested in the Cooper Nuclear Station facility to assure continued safe, clean, reliable and affordable production of electricity for Nebraskans across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Cooper Nuclear Station is a critical asset as part of Nebraska Public Power District's generation resources and the state's unique public power system, continues to assist in keeping state electric rates among the lowest in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 700 permanent jobs at Cooper Nuclear Station and the extensive use of contractors for ongoing maintenance and refueling outages are recognized as vitally important to the economies of the City of Rock Port, Atchison County, and surrounding communities of southeastern Nebraska and northwest Missouri; and

**WHEREAS**, Nebraska Public Power District submitted an application to renew Cooper Nuclear Station's operating license to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission on September 29, 2008; and

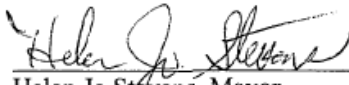
**WHEREAS**, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission is the federal agency charged with oversight of our nation's vital nuclear facilities and encourages public input and comment on license renewal proceedings from its neighboring communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Cooper Nuclear Station has been a good neighbor to its communities for more than three decades and its employees are interwoven into the fabric of the community, local schools churches, and community activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Rock Port City Council supports the renewal of the license for the nuclear generating facilities at Cooper Nuclear Station, to assure their continued operation of safe, affordable and integrally important component of Nebraska's public power electric power supply system for another 20 years; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Rock Port City Clerk is directed to make available a copy of this resolution to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission at its upcoming Environmental Scoping Public meeting.

Passed and approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009

  
Helen Jo Stevens, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Maureen K. Moore, City Clerk/Admin.

Comment:



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

12/30/08  
73 FR 79921  
①

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NOV 10 AM 10:11

RULES & POLICIES

SONSI Review Complete  
Template = ADM-013

E-REDS = ADM-03  
Add =  
E. SAYOR (ECS3)

NRC FORM 659  
(4-2008)



U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

# NRC PUBLIC MEETING FEEDBACK

Category

Meeting

Date: 02-25-2009

Meeting

Title: CNS License Renewal Process meeting

In order to better serve the public, we need to hear from the meeting participants. Please take a few minutes to fill out this feedback form and return it to NRC.

1. How did you hear about this meeting?

☐ NRC Web Page

☐ NRC Mailing List

☐ Newspaper

☒ Radio/TV

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Were you able to find supporting information prior to the meeting?

Yes

☒

No

(Please explain below)

☐

Somewhat

☐

3. Did the meeting achieve its stated purpose?

☒

☐

☐

4. Has this meeting helped you with your understanding of the topic?

☒

☐

☐

5. Were the meeting starting time, duration, and location reasonably convenient?

☒

☐

☐

6. Were you given sufficient opportunity to ask questions or express your views?

☒

☐

☐

7. Are you satisfied overall with the NRC staff who participated in the meeting?

☒

☐

☐

COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS:

Thank you for answering these questions.

Good informative meeting.

Continue Comments on the reverse.

OPTIONAL

Name James D. Gerweck Organization Richardson Co. Emergency Manager

Telephone No. 402-245-2446 E-Mail rcema@sentco.net ☐ Check here if you would like a member of NRC staff to contact you.

OMB NO. 3150-0197

Expires: 06/30/2009

Public Protection Notification: If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

Please fold on the dotted lines with Business Reply side out, tape the bottom, and mail back to the NRC.

**Emergency response- James Gerweck, Richardson County**

Good afternoon, many thanks to the NRC for hosting this public forum. I'm James Gerweck. I am the Director of the Richardson County, Nebraska, Emergency Management Agency. In my position, hardly a month has gone by where some form of interchange has not transpired between the Cooper Nuclear Station's Emergency Management Department and other nuclear operations staff and my office in Richardson County.

The referenced activities included quarterly emergency communications drills, unannounced communications checks, written correspondence involving improvements in emergency plans and training in many forms to include FEMA evaluated radiological emergency preparedness exercises. Other joint training activities include NPPD staff involvement and annual training of our radiological emergency response organization and our joint quarterly off-site training meetings.

Cooper Nuclear Station has fully demonstrated its ability to provide safe and reliable electricity for the citizens of the State of Nebraska. Richardson County has supported CNS in its offsite responsibilities to protect the public and property for many years and is glad to be a part of the team that supports nuclear power.

The bottom line in our realm of experience, the staff at the NPPD and Cooper Nuclear Station is thoroughly professional and meticulous in attention to detail concerning their approach to public safety. In short, they are fully integrated and a key member of our

public safety team and in view of their professional performance and contributions to our community, and we support the NPPD's application to continue operating at Cooper Nuclear Station for another 20 years.

In closing, Richardson County is proud to have CNS in the Richardson County area.

Thank you.

*James D. Gerusch, director*

*PO Box 609*

*Falls City, Nebraska 68355*

*402-245-2446 office*

*402-245-5578 Fax*

*rcema@sentco.net Email*

(CNS-1-O)

**Response:** The comments are supportive of license renewal. The comments are general in nature, provide no new information and, therefore, will not be evaluated further. No change to the scope of the Cooper Nuclear Station Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be made as a result of these comments.

## 2. General comments regarding the license renewal review of Cooper Nuclear Station, Unit 1

### Comment:

**Emmanuel Sayoc**

---

**From:** CooperEIS Resource  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2009 1:39 PM  
**To:** Emmanuel Sayoc  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping Comments for Relicensing of Cooper Nuclear Station, Brownville, NE

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Shepard.Larry@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Shepard.Larry@epamail.epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2009 4:59 PM  
**To:** CooperEIS Resource  
**Cc:** Cothorn.Joe@epamail.epa.gov; Hooper.CharlesA@epamail.epa.gov; Dunn.John@epamail.epa.gov; Lancaster.Kris@epamail.epa.gov  
**Subject:** Scoping Comments for Relicensing of Cooper Nuclear Station, Brownville, NE

RE: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process for Cooper Nuclear Station; Federal Register Volume 74, No. 15, January 26, 2009, page 4476.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the proposed relicensing of Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS), in support of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). EPA reviewed this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. We request that, in the future, the NRC provide an adequate period of time after conducting site audits for the submission of scoping comments by state or federal agencies. In this instance, scoping comments are to be submitted prior to the NRC site audit for this project.

Please consider the following comments during the EIS development process.

**Radiation** - Given the uncertainty involved with licensing the Yucca Mountain Nevada facility and the extremely long time-frames needed to secure Congressional approval and complete site preparation for any possible alternative permanent site for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel, all utilities planning on extending operation of existing nuclear units should consider contingencies for long-term storage of waste on-site.

**Water Quality** - The current CNS site has an existing infrastructure, which includes intake and discharge structures. The source of water for the plant is the Missouri River. Potential impacts to plant operation associated with available river flow, particularly during periods of sustained low flow, should be thoroughly described in the draft EIS. The draft EIS should articulate the assurance of a long-term water supply (i.e., greater than 20 years) for the operation of the reactor. This analysis should address contingencies created by changing regional climate and potential future changes in the operation of the river by the Army Corps of Engineers (i.e., flow

releases). The current facility is covered by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). New studies and analyses performed in support of the most recent permit application (e.g., thermal and chemical discharges) should be included in the draft EIS. The draft EIS should also completely discuss issues associated with entrainment and impingement of aquatic organisms (i.e., Section 316b of the Clean Water Act) and include alternatives to the present intake design. From a review of the Environmental Report, it is apparent that there is a great deal of information available regarding the impact of plant operation on the river ecosystem. However, we generally caution that these studies are 30 years old and the draft EIS should clearly articulate whether these data are representative of current river condition and ecological impact. We would expect the NRC to provide both its reasoning and data supporting that additional and more recent research is not required to adequately document current impacts.

The draft EIS should thoroughly characterize past contamination associated with the operation of CNS, particularly source and fate of tritium in the system, and document current condition of surface water and groundwater upstream and downstream from the site.

Environmental Management System - The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) published "Aligning NEPA processes with Environmental management Systems-A Guide for NEPA and EMS Practitioners" to improve NEPA implementation and environmental sustainability goals in NEPA and Executive Order 13423. The NEPA document should discuss EMS as appropriate.

Larry Shepard  
NEPA Team/Interstate Waters  
US EPA Region 7  
913-551-7441

(CNS-1-P)



NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1500 R STREET, P.O. BOX 82554, LINCOLN, NE 68501-2554  
(402) 471-3270 Fax: (402) 471-3100 1-800-833-6747 [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)  
Michael J. Smith, Director/CEO

February 2, 2009

Mr. David L. Pelton, Chief  
Division of License Renewal  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: Cooper Nuclear Station license renewal HP# 0801-050-001

Dear Mr. Pelton:

Thank you for submitting the referenced project for our review and comment. Our comment on this project and its potential to affect historic properties is required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. Before we are able to adequately review the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this project for its potential to affect historic properties, we require the following information:

- A map clearly defining the boundaries of the APE

Please submit this information to: Bob Puschendorf, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 82554, 1420 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68501-2554.

Sincerely,

Jill E. Dolberg  
Review and Compliance Coordinator  
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

Cc: Tam Tran, NRC  
Emmanuel Sayoc, NRC  
Steward B. Minahan, Chief Nuclear Officer, Cooper Nuclear Station

(CNS-1-Q)





Dave Heineman  
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Brian P. Dunnigan, P.E.  
Director

March 9, 2009

IN REPLY TO:

David L. Pelton, Branch Chief  
Projects Branch 1  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
United State Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Pelton:

A letter sent by you February 4, 2009, to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is being returned. The letter requests a list of protected species. The appropriate Nebraska agency for such request is the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission at the following address:

Kristal Stoner  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
P.O. Box 30370  
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

If we can be of assistance to you in other matters, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

  
Jean E. Angell

Enclosure

cc: Kristal Stoner, NGPC

legal/angell/2009

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 04, 2009

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FEB 09 2009

DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. Ann Salomon Bleed, Director  
Nebraska Department of Natural Resources  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 94676  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER  
EVALUATION FOR THE COOPER NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 LICENSE  
RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Ms. Bleed:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) is reviewing an application submitted by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) for the renewal of the operating license for Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) Unit 1. Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS), located in Nemaha County, Nebraska (NE), on the west bank of the Missouri River at river mile (RM) 532.5. The Village of Brownville, NE is located approximately 2.25 miles northwest of the site, and Lincoln, NE, is located approximately 60 miles west northwest of the site. As part of the review of the license renewal application (LRA), the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The SEIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended.

The site surroundings are predominantly agricultural with zero population within a one-half mile radius of the plant. Brownville, NE, is the nearest developed community, at a distance of approximately 2.25 miles from the site, and a 2005 population of approximately 137. The largest town with industry within 10 miles is Auburn, NE, located to the west, with a 2005 population of approximately 3,076. Maryville, Missouri, located approximately 40 miles east of the plant, is the largest community within 50 miles and had a 2005 population of approximately 10,567.

Over 99 percent of the acreage in Nemaha County is used for agriculture and farming. Farming is the major activity for the rest of the area within a 50-mile radius as well. The site is located on a constructional plain bordering the west bank of the Missouri River. It is situated on the first bottomland of the broad, nearly level, flood plain, which is approximately six miles wide at the site. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has stabilized the channel by use of pile dikes and bank protection. Earthen levees run parallel with the Missouri River, on both sides of the river.

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The station site grade level of 903 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) has been raised 13 feet above the natural grade level of 890 feet AMSL, in order to bring final grade one foot above the existing 902 feet AMSL levee constructed by the USACE. The site slopes generally east, with surface drainage toward the Missouri River.

The CNS property includes 239 acres on the east side of the Missouri River in Atchison County, Missouri, the most northwestern county in Missouri, bounded on the west by the Missouri River. The eastern bank of the Missouri River is chiefly a densely forested land similar to the unfarmable bluffs that run parallel to the Missouri River. To the west there are bluffs that peak at 1,100 feet, but average 1,000 feet along the stretch of river from Brownville to Nemaha. Beyond the bluffs, the land is a gently rolling flood plain.

There are several Native American lands within a 50-mile radius of CNS. These include the Sac and Fox Reservation, Iowa Reservation, and Kickapoo Reservation. There are also several local and county parks, golf courses, forest lands, wildlife areas, and other public recreation lands within a 50-mile radius of CNS.

Flow of the Missouri River at CNS is largely controlled by the Gavins Point Dam located about 200 miles upstream in Yankton, South Dakota. The flow is highly channelized with swift flows and heavy sediment transport. Wing dams are located on the Missouri side of the river near CNS to force the flow into a central channel.

The USACE constructed and operates six of the seven mainstem dams on the Missouri River; the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation operates the seventh, Canyon Ferry Dam, east of Helena, Montana. When the USACE constructed five of the Missouri River mainstem dams in the 1950s and 1960s after passage of the Pick-Sloan Plan, goals for dam and reservoir operations were to reduce flood damages, enhance navigation, generate hydroelectric power, and store water for irrigation.

Missouri River reservoirs and river segments presently contain populations of exotic fishes, including cisco, several salmon and trout species, and several Asian carp species. Some of these species have contributed to the development of economically important recreational fisheries.

CNS cooling is classified as a circulating water system that uses water taken from the Missouri River. Water passes through trash racks and then through traveling screens. A major portion of the flow is directed to the circulating water pumps, which deliver water to the main condenser. A smaller portion of the Missouri River water is used by the service water pumps. The discharge from the condenser and from the service water system is returned via the discharge channel to the river. The circulating water intake structure (CWIS) is located on the west shoreline. In front

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of the CWIS is a guide wall and submerged weir constructed of steel sheet piling that runs parallel to and at distance of 14.25 feet (ft) from the face of the intake.

Four circulating water pumps provide the circulating water for the facility. Each pump can draw 159,000 gpm. The pump design water level is at El. 875.0 ft, with a minimum submergence level at El. 865.0 ft. There are four service water pumps providing a combined flow of 32,000 gpm. Velocities in the intake structure are 1.1 ft/sec under the curtain wall, 0.7 ft/sec at the trash racks, and approximately 2.0 ft/sec at the traveling water screens. These velocities were calculated at low water levels (El. 874.5 ft) and maximum circulating water pump flow (159,000 gpm per pump). The flow is highly channelized with swift flows and heavy sediment transport. To minimize the effects of sedimentation on the intake, turning vanes and a low sheetpile wall are located in front of the intake bays. Wing dams are located on the Missouri side of the river to force the flow into a central channel. During the winter, ice is very common on the river. To prevent ice damage, ice deflector barges are installed during the winter months. To prevent the formation of frazzle ice, some of the main condenser discharge water (25–30 percent) is re-circulated through the ice control tunnel and released in front of the trash rack within the CWIS while the remaining water is discharged about 1,300 ft downstream of the intake via a discharge canal.

The chlorination system connection is located on the common inlet to Screen Wash Pump A and B from the service water system. Bacteria that occur naturally in the Missouri River may contribute to the growth of biological film fouling of the main condenser tubes. The station is proceeding with a study to determine if routine chemical injection (chlorine, bromine, etc.) will be effective in eliminating the microbiological film on the interior walls of the condenser tubes.

Water leaves the pump house and circulates through the condenser, where it is collected from the condenser section through a large manifold. It then travels through concrete tunnels to the seal well structure and the discharge canal. At the rated circulating water flow of 631,000 gpm through the condenser and at design power on the turbine generator, the temperature rise through the condenser is approximately 17.8°F. From the seal well and gate control structure, the water is directed into a discharge canal that is approximately 1,000 ft long; it then enters the river at a slight angle. The velocity of discharge is about 1 fps during average water levels of 879.4 ft AMSL and 35,000 cfs flow, and increases to about 2.5 fps as the water surface elevation is reduced to 874.5 ft AMSL and flows near 11,000 cfs.

The transmission lines which were constructed to connect CNS to the grid for purposes of power distribution includes (1) NPPD line TL3501 (345 kV energized in August 1969) 63.6 miles in length from CNS to the Mark T. Moore substation near Hallam, Nebraska, (2) NPPD line TL3502 (345 kV energized in July 1970) 82.6 miles in length from the Mark T. Moore substation to the Grand Island substation, (3) Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) Line "60," which was already planned when CNS was constructed, and (4) NPPD line TL3504 was energized as a 345 kV line in July 1970 and is 0.64 miles in length from CNS to the center of the Missouri River.

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The transmission line "K-Towers" are supported by two wooden poles that are 26 feet apart. Therefore, the farming activity adjacent to and under the towers and lines continues essentially unimpeded with the only land removed from service being that upon which transmission poles physically rest. No cultivated land along the transmission route has been removed from service as a result of rights-of-way, and access for repairs and maintenance is requested on an individual basis from each property owner. For the remainder of the transmission line route, which passes over non-cultivated land, the right-of-way (ROW) is cleared only of woody plants that have a growth pattern that would cause them to grow into or fall onto the line conductors. Thereafter, control of these species is maintained; however, all of the natural grasses and low growing bushy, woody plants are allowed to grow.

There are no densely forested areas on the transmission route, and the land beneath the transmission lines is allowed to return to its natural state. Steel towers are used for the lines crossing the Missouri River and in the immediate vicinity of the station. Based on NPPD clearance practices, the required minimum ground clearance is 29.3 feet.

Provided for your information is the CNS Site Layout (Enclosure 1) and Transmission Line Map (Enclosure 2). To support the SEIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests information on State-listed, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of CNS and its associated transmission line rights-of-way. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

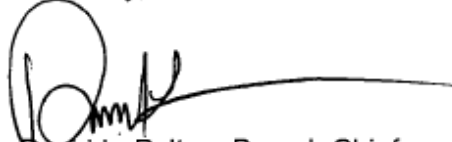
The NRC staff plans to hold two public license renewal and environmental scoping meetings on February 25, 2009. There will be two sessions, an afternoon and evening session, to accommodate interested parties. The first session will be held at the Brownville Concert Hall at 126 Atlantic St., Brownville, 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. In addition, during the week of March 30, 2009, the NRC plans to conduct a site audit. You and your staff are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments.

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The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is December 2009. If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's review of this license renewal application, please contact NRC's Project Managers, Tam Tran, by telephone, 1-800-368-5642, extension 3617, or by email to the NRC at [tam.tran@nrc.gov](mailto:tam.tran@nrc.gov), or Emmanuel Sayoc, by telephone, 1-800-368-5642, extension 1924, or by email to the NRC at [emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov](mailto:emmanuel.sayoc@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Pelton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

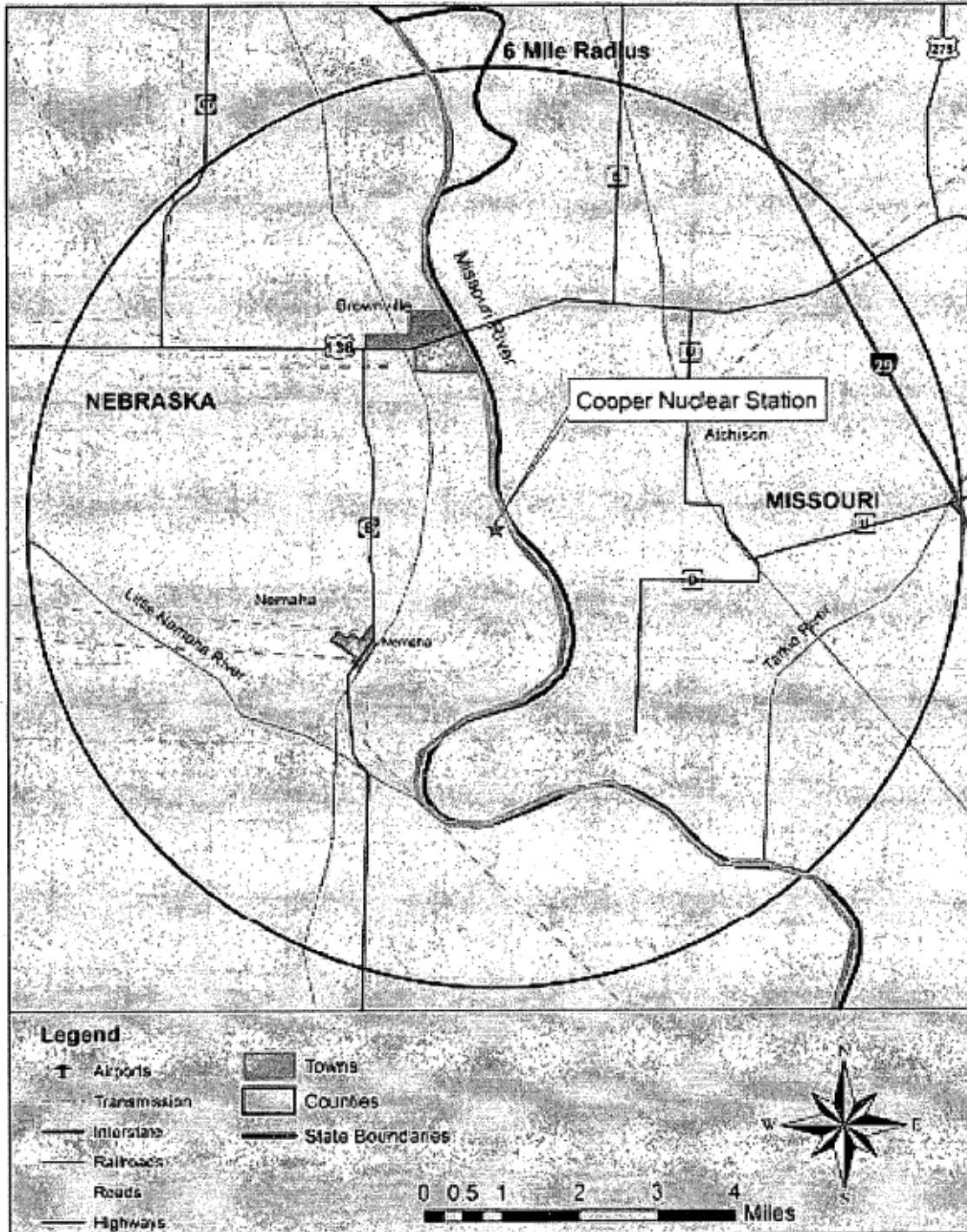
David L. Pelton, Branch Chief  
Projects Branch 1  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

Enclosures:

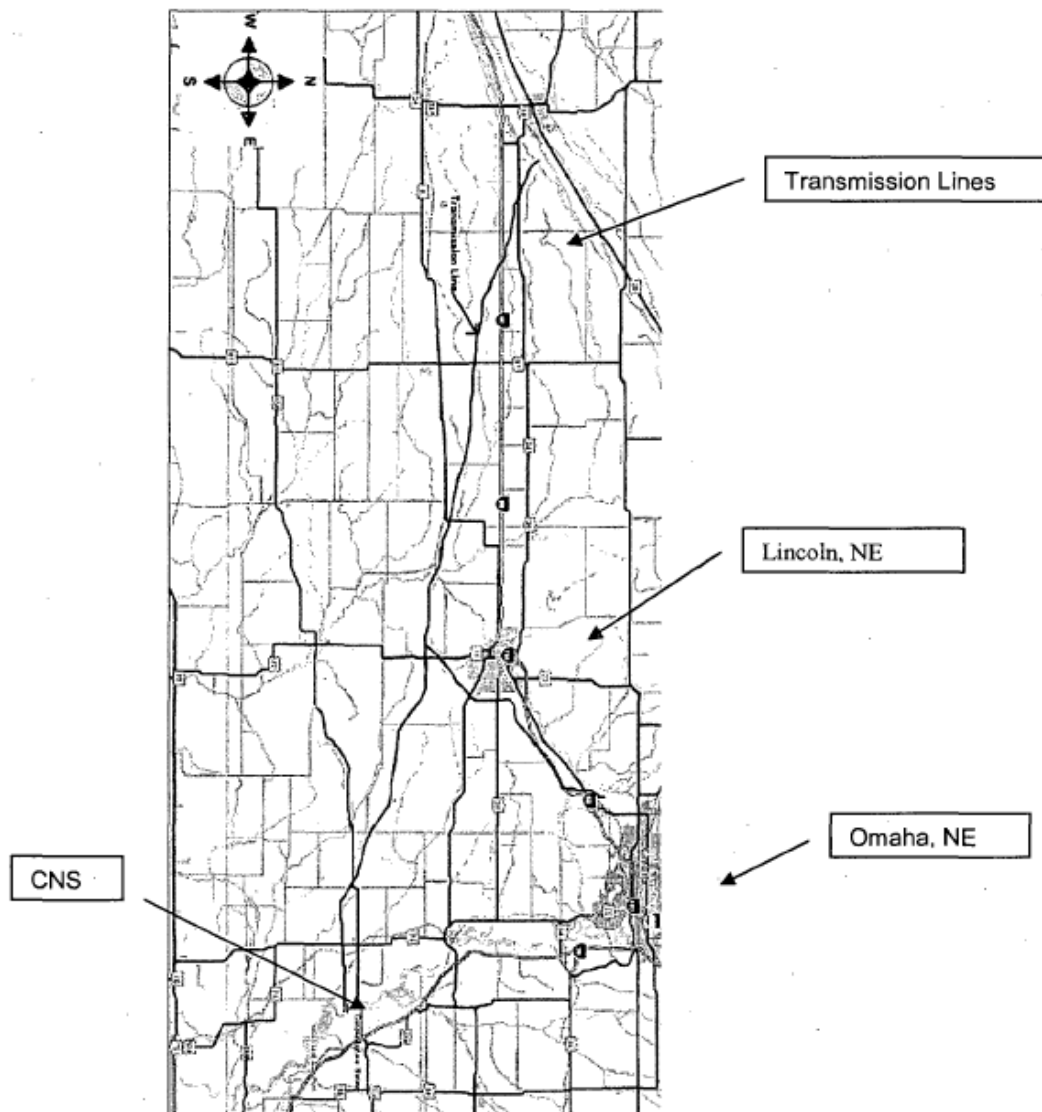
1. Site Layout
2. Transmission Line Map

cc w/encs: See next page



Cooper Nuclear Station Site Map – 6 Mile Radius

ENCLOSURE 1



Cooper Nuclear Station Transmission Lines

(CNS-1-R)

**Response:** With respect to the comments from the Nebraska State Historical Society (CNS-1-Q), and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (CNS-1-R), these comments contain matter from consultations with other government agencies, which support the license renewal review process. No change to the scope of the Cooper Nuclear Station Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be made as a result of these comments.

With respect to the EPA scoping comments (CNS-1-P), regarding radiation, given the uncertainty involved with licensing the Yucca Mountain Nevada facility and the extremely long



*time-frames needed to secure Congressional approval and complete site preparation for any possible alternative permanent site for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel, all utilities planning on extending operation of existing nuclear units should consider contingencies for long-term storage of waste on-site.*

*The SEIS will not include a discussion on the storage of spent nuclear fuel. This is because the NRC fully evaluated and addressed this issue in our Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants (NUREG-1437) and in its regulations. The current and potential environmental impacts from spent fuel storage onsite at the current reactor sites have been studied extensively and are well understood. The storage of spent fuel in spent fuel pools was considered for each plant in the safety and environmental reviews at the construction permit and operating license stage. The NRC has studied the safety and environmental effects from the temporary storage of spent fuel after the cessation of reactor operations (which may include the term of a revised or renewed license), and it published a generic determination of no significant environmental impact (the Waste Confidence Rule) in its regulations at 10 CFR 51.23. 10 CFR 51.23 (a) states:*

*The Commission has made a generic determination that, if necessary, spent fuel generated in any reactor can be stored safely and without significant environmental impact for at least 30 years beyond the licensed life for operation (which may include the term of a revised or renewed license) of that reactor at its spent-fuel storage basin or at either on-site or off-site independent fuel storage installations. Further, the Commission believes that there is reasonable assurance that at least one mined geological repository will be available within the first quarter of the twenty-first century, and sufficient repository capacity will be available within 30 years beyond the licensed life for operation of any reactor to dispose of the commercial high-level waste and spent fuel originating in such reactor and generated up to that time.*

*In accordance with this determination, the rule also provides that no discussion is required concerning the environmental impacts of spent fuel storage for the period following the term of the reactor operating license, including a renewed license.*

*With respect to the EPA scoping comments (CNS-1-P), regarding past contamination associated with the operation of CNS, particularly source and fate of tritium in the system, the draft SEIS will have a discussion on the impacts of radioactive liquid effluents discharged into the Missouri River. The discussion will evaluate the radiological dose impact to members of the public as well the impact to the environment. The SEIS will also discuss the results of Cooper's radiological environmental monitoring program in which environmental sample media are collected and analyzed in order to evaluate the radiological impacts, if any, of plant operation on the environment.*

*With respect to the EPA scoping comments (CNS-1-P), regarding water quality, the SEIS will discuss NPDES permits and related activities including any updated information, available river flow including low flows, USACE river flow control operations, as well as aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem issues. The NRC staff does recognize that the river ecological studies are generally out of date, and will address this issue in the EIS. The NRC staff is doing a search for more recent data. The staffs analysis, findings, as well as references and data used will be outlined*

*in the EIS and referenced for publicly availability. Climate change is not discussed in the EIS in any significant detail or regulatory context.*

*The EPA scoping comment (CNS-1-P), regarding Environmental Management Systems, has been withdrawn by the commenter and is not further addressed here by the NRC staff.*