



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

May 7, 2009

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

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOWUP LETTER – COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Minahan:

On April 30, 2009, the NRC staff completed, as part of our quarterly review, an update of our assessment of Cooper Nuclear Station. The assessment evaluated performance indicators and inspection results through the first quarter of calendar year 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your safety performance during this period and our plans for a future inspection at your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supersede, our annual assessment letter issued on March 4, 2009.

Our review of Cooper Nuclear Station identified that you crossed the threshold from Green to White for the Mitigating Systems Performance Index – Emergency AC Power (MSPI-EAC) performance indicator in the fourth quarter of 2008 based on data submitted at the end of the first quarter of 2009. The performance indicator returned to Green in the first quarter of 2009.

On October 30, 2008, the Division 1 emergency diesel generator failed to complete a surveillance run due to a reduction in fuel oil flow to the fuel oil day tank caused by an accumulation of foreign material in the fuel oil day tank inlet float valve. The additional unreliability term added from this run failure caused the MSPI-EAC performance indicator to cross the threshold from Green to White for the fourth quarter of 2008. As a result, we have assessed Cooper Nuclear Station performance to be in the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix pending successful completion of a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the White performance indicator.

When we are notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct the supplemental inspection, we will implement Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." This inspection procedure will be performed to provide assurance that the root and contributing causes for the White performance indicator are understood, to provide assurance that the extent of condition and extent of cause are identified, and to provide assurance that the corrective actions are sufficient to address the root and contributing causes to prevent recurrence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director
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License: DPR-46

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