February 18, 2010

Mr. Michael Smith, Director
Nebraska State Historical Society
P.O. Box 82554
1500 R Street
Lincoln, NE 68501

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW (HP NO. 0801-050-01, DESCRIPTION, NPPD, COOPER NUCLEAR STATION)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating license for Cooper Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (CNS-1), which is located in Nemaha County, Nebraska (NE) on the west side of the Missouri River at river mile 532.5. The Village of Brownville, NE is located about 2.25 miles northwest of the site. CNS-1 is operated by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," NUREG-1437. The SEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archeological and cultural properties from extended operation and possible refurbishment activities associated with license renewal. In accordance with our letter to the Nebraska State and Historical Society (NSHS) dated January 16, 2009, a copy of the draft supplement is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the draft supplement and on our preliminary conclusions regarding historic properties.

As stated in our January 16, 2009 letter, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The staff views the APE for the Cooper Nuclear Station, Unit 1, license renewal as including the Cooper Nuclear Station site and the immediate environs.

The NRC staff has conducted an environmental audit at the site and has reviewed historic and archaeological records. The NRC staff also contacted 15 federally recognized Native American Tribes identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. To date, no comments have been received.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the draft supplemental environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination, based on review of NSHS files, archaeological surveys, assessments, and other information, is that the potential impacts of license renewal on historic and archaeological resources is small. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed action. Further, NPPD has instituted a stop work order within its Cultural Resources Protection Plan to ensure that proper notification is taken to protect any historic and archaeological resources should they be discovered.

Please note that the period for public comment expires on May 5, 2010. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Ms. Bennett Brady, at 301-415-2981.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo Pham, Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-298

Enclosures: As stated

Please note that the period for public comment expires on May 5, 2010. If your office requires additional time, or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Ms. Bennett Brady, at 301-415-2981.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Bo Pham, Chief
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Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-298

Enclosures: As stated

Adams Accession Number: ML100351164

OFFICE	LA:DLR	PM:DLR:REB1	DLR:REB1	OGC	BC:DLR:REB1
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DATE	2/16/10	2/16/10	2/16/10	2/17/10	2/18/10

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Letter to M. Smith from B. Pham dated February 18, 2010

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Cooper Nuclear Station

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