

February 19, 2010

Mr. Mark A. Miles  
State Historic Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW  
(SHPO LOG NUMBER. 004-AT-08)

Dear Mr. Miles:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application to renew the operating license for Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) which is located in Nemaha County, Nebraska on the west side of the Missouri River at river mile 532.5. The village of Brownville, Nebraska is located about 2.25 miles northwest of the site. CNS 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 (enclosed). 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 you dated January 29, 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 CNS license renewal as including the CNS 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 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 environmental impact statement was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination based on a review of Nebraska State Historic Society 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.

M. Miles

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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 or by e-mail at [Bennett.Brady@nrc.gov](mailto:Bennett.Brady@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA by B. Brady for/*

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

Docket No. 50-298

Enclosure:  
As stated

M. Miles

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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 or by e-mail at [Bennett.Brady@nrc.gov](mailto:Bennett.Brady@nrc.gov).

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Bo M. Pham, Chief  
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Division of License Renewal  
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Letter to Mark A. Miles from Bo M. Pham dated February 19, 2010

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(SHPO LOG NUMBER. 004-AT-08)

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Cooper Nuclear Station

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Cooper Nuclear Station

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