



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

September 1, 2010

Brian J. O'Grady, Vice President-Nuclear  
and Chief Nuclear Officer  
Nebraska Public Power – Cooper  
Nuclear Station  
72676 648A Avenue  
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –  
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. O'Grady:

On August 11, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Cooper Nuclear Station. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only—Security-Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Cooper Nuclear Station was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

In our annual performance assessment letter, dated March 3, 2010, a substantive crosscutting issue in the area of human performance was identified based on a number of findings associated with the work practices component of the human performance area, specifically related to the use of human error prevention techniques [H.4(a)]. This crosscutting theme was also discussed during the 2008 end-of-cycle and the 2009 midcycle assessment letters. In the 2009 end-of-cycle letter, we informed you that this issue would remain open until you demonstrated sustainable performance improvements as evidenced by effective implementation of an appropriate corrective action plan that results in no safety significant inspection findings and a notable reduction in the overall number of inspection findings.

During this current assessment period, we noted that your corrective actions have been somewhat effective as evidenced by identification of only one additional finding with this crosscutting theme. We also recognized that you have not completed all actions documented in your improvement plan. Your improvement plan contains both tactical and strategic actions. The tactical actions were designed to immediately address specific challenges that were known to impact employee performance. The strategic actions were developed to address organizational and programmatic challenges. Most of your tactical actions have been fully implemented. However, the strategic actions which were specifically designed to sustain your noted improvement have not been fully implemented. Since not all actions are completed, this crosscutting issue will remain open pending completion and implementation of all correction actions to address this issue. This will also allow time to evaluate the sustainability of your performance improvement efforts once they are fully implemented. We will follow your progress in addressing this issue through implementation of the baseline inspection program.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through December 31, 2011. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of 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).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Vincent Gaddy at 817-860-8144 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,



Anton Vogel, Acting Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket: 50-298  
License: DPR-46

Enclosure:  
Cooper Nuclear Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc: w/enclosure:

Gene Mace  
Nuclear Asset Manager  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

John C. McClure, Vice President  
and General Counsel  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 499  
Columbus, NE 68601

David Van Der Kamp  
Licensing Manager  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

Michael J. Linder, Director  
Nebraska Department of  
Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

Randy Rohrs, Chairman  
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners  
Nemaha County Courthouse  
1824 "N" Street, Suite 201  
Auburn, NE 68305

Julia Schmitt, Manager  
Nebraska Department of Health  
and Human Services  
Division of Public Health  
Nebraska State Office Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

Deputy Director for Policy  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Nebraska Public Power

- 4 -

Chief, Radiation and Asbestos  
Control Section  
Kansas Department of Health  
and Environment  
Bureau of Air and Radiation  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 310  
Topeka, KS 66612-1366

Melanie Rasmussen, State Liaison Officer  
Radiation Control Program Director  
Bureau of Radiological Health  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor  
321 East 12th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319

John F. McCann, Director, Licensing  
Entergy Nuclear Northeast  
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc  
440 Hamilton Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10601-1813

Keith G. Henke, Planner  
Division of Community and Public Health  
Office of Emergency Coordination  
P.O. Box 570  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Art Zaremba  
Director of Nuclear Safety Assurance  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

Ronald D. Asche, President  
and Chief Executive Officer  
Nebraska Public Power District  
1414 15th Street  
Columbus, NE 68601

Chief, Technological Hazards  
Branch  
FEMA, Region VII  
9221 Ward Parkway  
Suite 300  
Kansas City, MO 64114-3372

Electronic distribution by RIV:

Regional Administrator (Elmo.Collins@nrc.gov)  
 Deputy Regional Administrator (Chuck.Casto@nrc.gov)  
 DRP Acting Director (Tony.Vegel@nrc.gov)  
 DRP Acting Deputy Director (Troy.Pruett@nrc.gov)  
 DRS Director (Roy.Caniano@nrc.gov)  
 DRS Acting Deputy Director (Jeff.Clark@nrc.gov)  
 Acting Senior Resident Inspector (Michael.Chambers@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRP/C (Vincent.Gaddy@nrc.gov)  
 Senior Project Engineer, DRP/C (Bob.Hagar@nrc.gov)  
 Project Engineer, DRP/C (Rayomand.Kumana@nrc.gov)  
 CNS Administrative Assistant (Amy.Elam@nrc.gov)  
 Public Affairs Officer (Victor.Dricks@nrc.gov)  
 Public Affairs Officer (Lara.Uselding@nrc.gov)  
 Project Manager (Fred.Lyon@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/TSB (Michael.Hay@nrc.gov)  
 RITS Coordinator (Marisa.Herrera@nrc.gov)  
 Regional Counsel (Karla.Fuller@nrc.gov)  
 Congressional Affairs Officer (Jenny.Weil@nrc.gov)  
 OEmail Resource  
 ROPreports Resource  
 Regional State Liaison Officer (Bill.Maier@nrc.gov)  
 Regional Administrator Secretary (Lucy.Owen@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/Engineering Branch 1 (Thomas.Farnholtz@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/Engineering Branch 2 (Neil.Keefe@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/Operations Branch (Mark.Haire@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/Plant Support Branch 1 (Michael.Shannon@nrc.gov)  
 Branch Chief, DRS/Plant Support Branch 2 (Greg.Werner@nrc.gov)  
 Deputy Assistant for Operations, OEDO (James.Andersen@nrc.gov)  
 Director, DIRS, NRR (Frederick.Brown@nrc.gov)  
 Deputy Director, DIRS, NRR (Michael.Cheok@nrc.gov)  
 Deputy Director, DORL, NRR (Robert.Nelson@nrc.gov)  
 Director, DORL, NRR (Joseph.Giitter@nrc.gov)  
 LPL4 Branch Chief, DORL (Michael.Markley@nrc.gov)  
 OEDO RIV Coordinator (Margie.Kotzalas@nrc.gov)  
 mortensengk@INPO.org

R:\\_Reactors\EOC and Midcycle\Midcycle Assessment Letters\2010

ADAMS: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review Complete	Reviewer Initials: VGG
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive
		<input type="checkbox"/> Non-publicly Available	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive
<b>BC:DRP:C</b>	<b>D:DRS</b>	<b>D:DRP</b>	
VGGaddy	RJCaniano JClark for	AVegel	
<b>/RA/</b>	<b>/RA/</b>	<b>/RA/</b>	
8/16/10	8/18/10	8/25/10	

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E=E-mail F=Fax

Unit Number	Planned Start	Planned End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
1	10/18/2010	10/22/2010	<b>EB2-05T - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION</b> IP 7111105T Fire Protection [Triennial]		5
1	11/01/2010	11/05/2010	IP 7111105T Fire Protection [Triennial]		
1	10/04/2010	10/08/2010	<b>RS4S - RADIATION SAFETY</b> IP 71124.04 Occupational Dose Assessment		2
1	10/04/2010	10/08/2010	IP 71124.05 Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		
1	01/31/2011	02/04/2011	<b>EXAM - INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM</b> X02465 INITIAL EXAM - CNS (02/2011)		3
1	02/28/2011	03/04/2011	X02465 INITIAL EXAM - CNS (02/2011)		
1	12/06/2010	12/10/2010	<b>BRQ - OPERATOR REGUAL INSPECTION</b> IP 7111111B Licensed Operator Requalification Program		2
1	03/07/2011	04/10/2011	<b>PSB2-08G - INSERVICE INSPECTION</b> IP 7111108G Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR		3
1	03/21/2011	03/25/2011	<b>RS123 - RADIATION SAFETY</b> IP 71124.01 Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls		2
1	03/21/2011	03/25/2011	IP 71124.02 Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls		
1	03/21/2011	03/25/2011	IP 71124.03 In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation		
1	03/21/2011	03/25/2011	IP 71151-OR01 Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness		
1	03/21/2011	03/25/2011	IP 71151-PR01 RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent		
1	06/20/2011	06/24/2011	<b>EP1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION</b> IP 7111402 Alert and Notification System Testing		1
1	06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 7111403 Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System		
1	06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 7111404 Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		
1	06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 7111405 Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		
1	06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 71151-EP01 Drill/Exercise Performance		
1	06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 71151-EP02 ERO Drill Participation		
1	06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 71151-EP03 Alert & Notification System		
1	06/06/2011	06/24/2011	<b>TSB-52B - BIENNIAL PI&amp;R</b> IP 71152B Identification and Resolution of Problems		2
1	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	<b>RP678 - RADIATION SAFETY TEAM</b> IP 71124.06 Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment		5
1	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71124.07 Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		
1	06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71124.08 Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation		

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
 This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.