



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

December 4, 2011

Mr. Wallace L. Taylor, Legal Chair
Sierra Club Iowa Chapter
3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280
Des Moines, IA 50310

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO OCTOBER 2, 2011, LETTER REGARDING FORT CALHOUN
STATION RECOVERY ACTION PLAN AND FACILITY RESTART

Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am responding to your October 2, 2011, letter concerning the Fort Calhoun Station Action Plan and the steps necessary for restart of the facility. Overall, I want to assure you that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) continues to monitor the conditions at the Fort Calhoun Station (FCS) and Omaha Public Power District's actions to prepare for restart.

In your letter, you requested the NRC periodically monitor the activities of the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) as they complete required actions for facility restart. We regularly monitor and inspect activities at the facility with two resident inspectors who are permanently assigned to FCS and with additional inspectors from the Region IV and Headquarters offices. Fort Calhoun Station will be required to obtain NRC approval before the reactor is allowed to be restarted. Before providing this approval, the NRC will confirm that the actions described in Fort Calhoun's post-flood recovery plan and additional NRC inspections needed to address the technical and performance issues at the site have been satisfactorily completed. The NRC issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL 4-11-003 ML112490164) on September 2, 2011, to track the actions and confirmatory inspections required for restart.

You also expressed an interest in the NRC making a report available to the public before the plant is allowed to restart. This is part of the NRC's process for confirming completion of actions required by the CAL. Prior to restart, the NRC will conduct a public meeting to discuss the results of inspections and reviews required of OPPD. Shortly after this meeting, the NRC will issue an inspection report detailing results of our inspections.

Our inspection reports are available for public review in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Additionally, you may consider subscribing to the NRC's electronic distribution system at <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html> to automatically receive public documents related to FCS.

In your letter, you also addressed a number of specific issues and concerns. You raised the issue of a potential lack of rigor in the inspections and assessments being performed by OPPD to address and close the CAL items. Citing several examples, you stated that the reviews and forms used by OPPD appeared to be merely “go/no-go” or “checklist” actions. NRC staff has been observing and inspecting the actions listed in the post-flood recovery plan and the CAL as they occur since the CAL was issued on September 2, 2011. OPPD has detailed plans to satisfy each of the CAL actions. In addition, the NRC verifies that OPPD’s actions are completed to an appropriate level to ensure reasonable assurance that the plant will operate in a manner that provides adequate protection of public health and safety. In a number of instances, we have already addressed the need for additional rigor with OPPD. The NRC will review each of OPPD’s closure packages and document our method of acceptance. The NRC will not permit restart of the facility until all applicable items for heatup and startup have been completed and we have reasonable assurance of safe plant operation.

If you have any further questions regarding the ongoing reviews and inspections being conducted at FCS, please contact our branch chief responsible for inspection activities at FCS, Jeff Clark, at 817-860-8147.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Elmo E. Collins
Regional Administrator

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Publicly Avail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Sens. Type Initials	JAC
DRP:PBF	RIV: SLO	RIV/PAO	RIV:DRP	RIV	
JClark	WMaier	VDricks	KKennedy	ECollins	
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