



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

September 1, 2015

Mr. Oscar A. Limpias
Vice President-Nuclear
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(REPORT 05000298/2015005)**

Dear Mr. Limpias:

On August 13, 2015, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Cooper Nuclear Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, the Cooper Nuclear Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at the Cooper Nuclear Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2017. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the second half of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

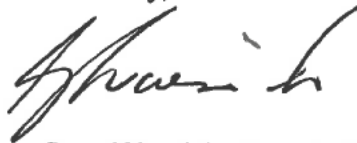
In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance

and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate licensee plans for complying with the Orders, as described in site-specific submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for the first unit at each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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 Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (817) 200-1144 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,



Greg Warnick, Branch Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No: 50-298
License No: DPR-46

Enclosure:
Cooper Nuclear Station Inspection/Activity Plan

Cooper
 Inspection / Activity Plan
 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

| Unit Number | Planned Dates Start | Planned Dates End | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| 1 | 10/26/2015 | 10/30/2015 | EXAM - INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM X02547 | INITIAL EXAM CNS (12/2015) | 4 |
| 1 | 11/30/2015 | 12/04/2015 | X02547 | INITIAL EXAM CNS (12/2015) | |
| 1 | 08/10/2015 | 12/31/2015 | BRQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION IP 7111111B | Licensed Operator Requalification Program | 3 |
| 1 | 08/24/2015 | 08/28/2015 | RS 5678 - RADIATION SAFETY - TEAM IP 71124.05 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation | 4 |
| 1 | 08/24/2015 | 08/28/2015 | IP 71124.06 | Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment | |
| 1 | 08/24/2015 | 08/28/2015 | IP 71124.07 | Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program | |
| 1 | 08/24/2015 | 08/28/2015 | IP 71124.08 | Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation | |
| 1 | 11/01/2015 | 11/30/2015 | ISFSI - ROUTINE ISFSI INSPECTION (ONE WEEK) IP 60855.1 | Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants | 1 |
| 1 | 11/02/2015 | 11/06/2015 | EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION IP 7111402 | Alert and Notification System Testing | 1 |
| 1 | 11/02/2015 | 11/06/2015 | IP 7111403 | Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System | |
| 1 | 11/02/2015 | 11/06/2015 | IP 7111404 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | |
| 1 | 11/02/2015 | 11/06/2015 | IP 7111405 | Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies | |
| 1 | 11/02/2015 | 11/06/2015 | EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IP 71151-EP01 | Drill/Exercise Performance | 1 |
| 1 | 11/02/2015 | 11/06/2015 | IP 71151-EP02 | ERO Readiness | |
| 1 | 11/02/2015 | 11/06/2015 | IP 71151-EP03 | Alert & Notification System Reliability | |
| 1 | 02/06/2016 | 02/10/2017 | EXAM - INITIAL EXAM X02587 | INITIAL EXAM CNS (03/2017) | 5 |
| 1 | 03/06/2016 | 03/17/2017 | X02587 | INITIAL EXAM CNS (03/2017) | |
| 1 | 03/21/2016 | 03/25/2016 | RS 24 - RADIATION SAFETY IP 71124.02 | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls | 2 |
| 1 | 03/21/2016 | 03/25/2016 | IP 71124.04 | Occupational Dose Assessment | |
| 1 | 04/03/2016 | 04/22/2016 | EB1-17T - CNS PERM PLANT MODS & 50.59 INSPECTION IP 7111117T | Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications | 3 |
| 1 | 06/13/2016 | 06/17/2016 | EP-2 - EXERCISE INSPECTION IP 7111401 | Exercise Evaluation | 4 |
| 1 | 06/13/2016 | 06/17/2016 | IP 7111404 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | |
| 1 | 06/13/2016 | 06/17/2016 | EP-3 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS IP 71151-EP01 | Drill/Exercise Performance | 2 |

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

Cooper
 Inspection / Activity Plan
 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

| Unit Number | Planned Dates Start | Planned Dates End | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| | | | EP-3 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | | |
| 1 | 06/13/2016 | 06/17/2016 | IP 71151-EP02 | ERO Readiness | 2 |
| 1 | 06/13/2016 | 06/17/2016 | IP 71151-EP03 | Alert & Notification System Reliability | |
| | | | EB2-05XT - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION | | 4 |
| 1 | 08/08/2016 | 08/12/2016 | IP 7111105X | Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial) | |
| 1 | 08/22/2016 | 08/26/2016 | IP 7111105X | Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial) | |
| | | | 71111.08 - INSERVICE INSPECTION RF29 | | 1 |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 7111108G | Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR | |
| | | | RS 13 PI - RADIATION SAFETY | | 2 |
| 1 | 10/17/2016 | 10/21/2016 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1 | 10/17/2016 | 10/21/2016 | IP 71124.03 | In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation | |
| 1 | 10/17/2016 | 10/21/2016 | IP 71151-OR01 | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness | |
| 1 | 10/17/2016 | 10/21/2016 | IP 71151-PR01 | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences | |
| | | | RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY | | 3 |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71124.02 | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71151-OR01 | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness | |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71151-PR01 | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences | |
| | | | EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111402 | Alert and Notification System Testing | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111403 | Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111404 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111405 | Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies | |
| | | | EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION | | 1 |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 71151-EP01 | Drill/Exercise Performance | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 71151-EP02 | ERO Readiness | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 71151-EP03 | Alert & Notification System Reliability | |

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