



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

March 2, 2016

Mr. Oscar A. Limpias  
Vice President-Nuclear and CNO  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Cooper Nuclear Station  
72676 648A Avenue  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, NE 68321

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION  
(REPORT 05000298/2015006)**

Dear Mr. Limpias:

On February 17, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its end-of-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 January 1, 2015 through December 31, 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 (Column 1) 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 December 31, 2017. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-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.

Additionally, the NRC plans to complete Temporary Instruction 190, "Inspection of Licensee's Proposed Interim Actions as a Result of the Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1 Flooding Evaluation." We will coordinate with your staff to schedule this inspection in 2016. 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." This Order 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." This Order 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. Following the audit, and after the NRC staff receives the Final Compliance letter for the site, the Final Safety Evaluation will be issued. Then, the NRC staff will confirm through inspections the full implementation of the orders mentioned above by performing Temporary Instruction 191, "Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans."

From January 1 to December 31, 2015, the NRC issued three Severity Level IV traditional enforcement violations associated with impeding the regulatory process. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct Inspection Procedure 92723, "Follow up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period," to assess your evaluation of these violations and review the adequacy of associated corrective actions.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS).

O. Limpias

- 3 -

ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site 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,

/RA/

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

O. Limpias

- 3 -

ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site 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,

/RA/

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

ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML16061A312

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review By: CHY	ADAMS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available	Keyword NRC-002
OFFICE	BC:DRP/C	D:DRS	D:DRP	
NAME	GWarnick	AVegel	TPruett	
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/RLantz, for	
DATE	2/29/16	2/29/16	2/26/16	

**OFFICIAL RECORD DOCUMENT**

Letter to Oscar Limpias from Greg Warnick, dated March 2, 2016

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION  
(REPORT 05000298/2015006)

DISTRIBUTION:

Regional Administrator (Marc.Dapas@nrc.gov)  
Deputy Regional Administrator (Kriss.Kennedy@nrc.gov)  
DRP Director (Troy.Pruett@nrc.gov)  
DRP Deputy Director (Ryan.Lantz@nrc.gov)  
DRS Director (Anton.Vegel@nrc.gov)  
DRS Deputy Director (Jeff.Clark@nrc.gov)  
Senior Resident Inspector (Patricia.Voss@nrc.gov)  
Resident Inspector (Christopher.Henderson@nrc.gov)  
Branch Chief, DRP/C (Greg.Warnick@nrc.gov)  
Senior Project Engineer (Cale.Young@nrc.gov)  
Project Engineer (Michael.Stafford@nrc.gov)  
Project Engineer (Lindsay.Brandt@nrc.gov)  
Administrative Assistant (Amy.Elam@nrc.gov)  
Public Affairs Officer (Victor.Dricks@nrc.gov)  
Project Manager (Thomas.Wengert@nrc.gov)  
Team Leader, DRS/TSS (Thomas.Hipschman@nrc.gov)  
ACES (R4Enforcement.Resource@nrc.gov)  
RITS Coordinator (Marisa.Herrera@nrc.gov)  
Regional Counsel (Karla.Fuller@nrc.gov)  
Technical Support Assistant (Loretta.Williams@nrc.gov)  
Congressional Affairs Officer (Jenny.Weil@nrc.gov)  
Congressional Affairs Officer (Angel.Moreno@nrc.gov)  
RIV/ETA: OEDO (Raj.lyengar@nrc.gov)  
Director, DIRS, NRR (Scott.Morris@nrc.gov)  
Deputy Director, DIRS, NRR (Clay.Johnson@nrc.gov)  
Director, DORL, NRR (Anne.Boland@nrc.gov)  
Deputy Director, DORL, NRR (George.Wilson@nrc.gov)  
Director, DPR (Lawrence.Kokajko@nrc.gov)  
Director, NSIR (Brian.Holian@nrc.gov)  
DRP Branch Chiefs (R4DRPBC@nrc.gov)  
DRS Branch Chiefs (R4DRSBC@nrc.gov)  
ROPreports.Resource@nrc.gov  
ROPassessment.Resource@nrc.gov

**Cooper**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**04/01/2016 - 12/31/2017**

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			<b>EB1-17T - CNS PERM PLANT MODS &amp; 50.59 INSPECTION</b>		<b>6</b>
1	04/03/2016	04/22/2016	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			<b>EP-2 - EXERCISE INSPECTION</b>		<b>4</b>
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
			<b>EP-3 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>		<b>2</b>
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
			<b>EB2-05XT - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION</b>		<b>4</b>
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)	
			<b>71111.08 - INSERVICE INSPECTION RF29</b>		<b>1</b>
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			<b>RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY</b>		<b>2</b>
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences	
			<b>ISFSI - LOADING INSPECTION (ONE WEEK IN MONTH)</b>		<b>1</b>
1	05/01/2017	05/30/2017	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			<b>RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY</b>		<b>2</b>
1	05/22/2017	05/26/2017	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	05/22/2017	05/26/2017	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
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	
			<b>EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
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	
			<b>EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION</b>		<b>1</b>
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	

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

**Cooper**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**04/01/2016 - 12/31/2017**

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
<b>EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION</b>					<b>1</b>
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	
<b>TSB 52B - BIENNIAL PI&amp;R</b>					<b>4</b>
1	07/10/2017	07/14/2017	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	07/24/2017	07/28/2017	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
<b>BRQ - BRQ INSPECTION</b>					<b>2</b>
1	10/02/2017	10/06/2017	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
<b>RS 5678 - RS TEAM</b>					<b>4</b>
1	10/02/2017	10/06/2017	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1	10/02/2017	10/06/2017	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	10/02/2017	10/06/2017	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	10/02/2017	10/06/2017	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.