



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 15, 2016

Julia A. Schmitt, Manager
NE Dept. of Health & Human Services
Office of Radiation Health
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION
DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING PLAN

Dear Ms. Schmitt:

By letters dated December 17, 2012, and December 15, 2015, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) submitted decommissioning funding plans (DFP) for the Cooper Nuclear Station Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), located in Nebraska, for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review and approval.

The NRC regulations at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 72, "Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level Radioactive Waste, and Reactor-Related Greater than Class C Waste," govern the storage of spent nuclear fuel (spent fuel) generated at commercial nuclear power reactors licensed by the NRC. Spent fuel that has been removed from the reactor's spent fuel pool is typically stored at a nuclear power plant's ISFSI.

The NRC requires its licensees to plan for the eventual decommissioning of their licensed facilities prior to license termination. On June 17, 2011, the NRC published a final rule amending its decommissioning planning regulations (76 *Federal Register* (FR) 35512). The final rule amended the NRC regulation, 10 CFR 72.30, which concerns financial assurance and decommissioning for ISFSIs. This regulation now requires each holder of, or applicant for, a license under 10 CFR Part 72 to submit, for NRC review and approval, a DFP. The purpose of the DFP is to demonstrate the licensee's financial assurance, *i.e.*, that funds will be available to decommission the ISFSI. The NRC staff is reviewing the information submitted by NPPD. Specifically, the NRC must determine whether NPPD DFP contains the information required by 10 CFR 72.30(b) and 10 CFR 72.30 (c) Tri-Annual Update and whether NPPD has provided reasonable assurance that funds will be available to decommission the ISFSI.

The NPPD ISFSI DFP is publicly available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

J. Schmitt

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The ADAMS accession number for the application package is ML12354A216 for the 2012 submittal and ML16014A382 for the 2015 submittal.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the agency has prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action (enclosed). We are providing your office with the opportunity to review the draft EA and comment on environmental issues prior to the public issuance and publication of the EA. We request that distribution and use of the enclosed draft EA be limited only to those staff involved in the review and comment process.

Please submit any comments within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Document Control Desk, ATTN: John McKirgan, Mail Stop: TWFN 4B-34, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Richard Baum of my staff by telephone at 301-415-0018, or by e-mail at richard.baum@nrc.gov. The NRC staff will consider your timely comments and will revise the EA, as appropriate, before its final issuance and publication. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John McKirgan Chief
Spent Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-66
CAC No.: L24824

Enclosure:
Draft Environmental Assessment

~~PRE-DECISIONAL INFORMATION. THIS INFORMATION IS LIMITED TO USE BY THE OFFICE OF RADIATION HEALTH. THIS INFORMATION SHALL NOT BE DISCLOSED WITHOUT PRIOR NRC PERMISSION.~~

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Draft Environmental Assessment

G:\SFST\72.30 Decommissioning Funding Plans\2015 Submission Part 70.30 (c)\Cooper Nuclear Station DFP Consultation Letter to State.docx
G:\SFST\72.30 Decommissioning Funding Plans\2015 Submission Part 70.30 (c)\Cooper Nuclear Station Draft EA for Consultation.docx

ADAMS PKG No.: ML16197A193 Letter: ML16197A197 Enclosure: ML16197A199

OFC	DSFM	DSFM	DSFM	DSFM		
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DATE	07/11/16	07/13/16	07/15/16			

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