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Nebraska Public Power District

GENERAL OFFICE
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March 17, 1980

Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attn: Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 3
Division of Operating Reactors
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Drywell-Suppression Chamber Differential Pressure
Technical Specification Change Request
Cooper Nuclear Station
NRC Docket No. 50-298, DPR-46

Reference: 1) Letter from J. Pilant to T. Ippolito
Dated February 8, 1980, "Reload Licensing
Submittal, Reload 5, Cycle 6"

Dear Mr. Ippolito:

Reference 1 transmitted a request for various Technical Specification changes resulting from work being performed during the present refueling outage at Cooper Nuclear Station. A summary of the major Mark I Containment Program modifications which were being planned at that time was also submitted for NRC information. It has been determined that Item 2.g of this summary, truncation of the downcomers, will require a change in the Technical Specification value for Drywell-Suppression Chamber Differential Pressure. Accordingly, this request to amend the Technical Specification changes of Reference 1 is submitted.

The current maximum downcomer submergence at torus high water level is 4'-4½". With the current Technical Specification pressure differential of 1.47 psi, the resulting slug of water remaining in the downcomer is 0.91 feet of water (at torus high water level). After truncation of the downcomer during the present refueling outage, the maximum downcomer submergence will be 3'-4". If the current pressure differential of 1.47 psi is maintained after the outage, constant bubbling of nitrogen/oxygen into the suppression pool will result since a pressure differential of 1.47 psi will displace 3'-5½" of water. Since such a condition cannot be accepted for operation, the Technical Specification pressure differential of 1.47 psi must be reduced; therefore, Nebraska Public Power District requests that Technical Specification 3.7.E.1 be revised to a value of 1.1 psi as reflected in the modified pages attached. This reduced pressure differential will prevent venting to the suppression pool and result in a downcomer water slug length at high water level after the modification of 0.79 feet. This length is slightly less than that which currently exists (0.79 vs. 0.91 ft.) and will result in a greater factor of safety for this type of loading.

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The present refueling outage is currently expected to be concluded approximately May 15, 1980; therefore, as stated in Reference 1 approval of all outage related Technical Specification changes are respectfully requested prior to May 1, 1980.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In addition to three signed originals, 37 copies are also submitted.

Sincerely yours,

Jay M. Pilant
Director of Licensing
and Quality Assurance

JMP/JDW:bas17/1
Enclosure

STATE OF NEBRASKA )
) ss
PLATTE COUNTY )

Jay M. Pilant, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is an authorized representative of the Nebraska Public Power District, a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Nebraska; that he is duly authorized to submit this information on behalf of Nebraska Public Power District; and that the statements in said application are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Jay M. Pilant

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 17th day of March, 1980.

Marilyn R. Hohndorf
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires Oct. 14, 1980.

GENERAL NOTARY - State of Nebraska
MARILYN R. HOHNDORF
My Comm. Exp. Oct. 14, 1980