U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
REGION IV

Docket No. 50-298/Report No. 79-18

Licensee: Nebraska Public Power District

Facility Name: Cooper Nuclear Station

Inspection at: Brownsville, Nebraska

Inspection Date: December 3, 1979

Inspector: J. D. Brown for 4/23/80
H. C. Harrison, Radiation Specialist Date

Approved by: J. D. Brown 4/23/80
G. D. Brown, Chief, FF&MS Branch Region IV Date

Summary

Inspection on December 3, 1979 (Report No. 79-18)
The purpose of this unannounced inspection was to verify that administrative requirements were established or implemented and to observe the opening and quality of contents of a package awaiting shipment.
Areas Inspected: Current regulations, current requirements of waste burial firms, instructions and operating procedures, training, audit program, and content of applicable audit. One package was opened for inspection. The inspection involved four hours by one NRC inspector.
Results: No items of noncompliance were identified.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

L. Lessor, Plant Superintendent
J. Sayer, Supervisor of Chemistry and Health Physics
M. Williams, Operations Supervisor
J. Mehser, Radwaste Operator
V. Wolstenholm, QA Supervisor
R. Gibson, QA Engineer

2. Inspection Activities

a. A current set of DOT and NRC regulations for the transfer, packaging and transfer of low-level radioactive waste material was physically located in the Health Physics Supervisor's office. Dat-O-Line subscriptions are used to keep both sets of regulations current.

b. The licensee has current and complete sets of requirements for Hanford, Beatty and Barnwell sites. These site requirements are kept in the Health Physics Supervisor's office.

c. Management approved procedures numbers 9.5.3 "Radioactive Material Shipment" and 9.5.4.2 "Solid Radioactive Waste Calculations" are adequate and were updated in November 1979. There is an understanding by personnel of the chemical and physical form of the waste, and this is consistent with the consignee's license. The procedures do adequately provide for Type A and Type B packaging considerations. Procedures call for data to be inserted into a computer which flags when allowable quantities are exceeded.

d. Training for operations personnel involved in the transfer, packaging and transport of low-level radioactive waste material consists of one hour of health physics and two hours of operational techniques. Records of training are available as well as records of periodic refresher training.

e. An audit program for activities associated with transfer, packaging and transport of low-level radioactive wastes has been incorporated into the overall audit program. This program includes the delegation of management responsibilities, the writing of audit reports to management, a system for assuring that corrective actions are taken on audit findings, and re-audit schedules.

f. The management type audit of the activities associated with the transfer, packaging, and transport of low-level radioactive wastes was reviewed. This audit, QAP-1200, was conducted during the two weeks ending September 13, 1979 and its objective was to verify that approved procedures were available and implemented. Audit findings included:

(1) A recommendation that the licensee continue the subscription to Dat-O-Line for maintenance of current regulations.

(2) An acknowledgement that the designation of people responsible for the safe transfer, packaging and transport of radioactive waste is made by functional title in applicable procedures. Procedures state that this individual is the Chemistry and Health Physics Supervisor, who is presently Mr. Jerry Sayer.

(3) An acknowledgement to the availability of procedures for all personnel involved in the transfer, packaging and transfer of waste;

(4) A recommendation that the formal documented training program be continued. Audit QAP-200, Training, includes the training of personnel involved with waste packaging.

3. On-site Observations

a. There were no observations of packaging activities since this is normally done first thing on day shift, and the inspector was not inside the security area at that time.

b. Barrel No. 79-10-3, which was awaiting shipment, was selected by the inspector for opening. However, it was determined that the barrel contained solidified material from a Waste Sludge Tank and measured 4 R/hr at its surface. Accordingly, because of the high radiation level, the barrel was not opened but rather was inspected remotely through a shielded viewing window. There was no visible evidence of a "poor quality" or damaged container including the lid fastening device.