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Omaha Public Power District

1623 HARNEY OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102 TELEPHONE 536-4000 AREA CODE 402

December 8, 1978

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
ATTN: Mr. Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 4
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Reference: Docket No. 50-285

Gentlemen:

In response to discussions held with members of your staff in regard to the Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun Station Unit No. 1 Inservice and Inspection Program, the following information is provided related to the inspection of check valves SI-159 and SI-160. The safety function of these valves is to open to permit flow from the containment sump to the suction of the safety injection pumps.

The District proposed, in a report entitled "Fort Calhoun Station Unit No. 1 Inservice and Inspection Program Plan for the 1976-1980 Period", dated September 1, 1978, to perform no testing on these valves. This is because: (1) testing is impractical since no feasible means currently exist for providing design flows through these check valves, (2) the valves are wholly redundant to one another, and (3) failure data is insufficient to show that a credible problem exists with check valves failing to open.

The District continues to believe that testing of these valves is unnecessary due to the above considerations. Nevertheless, one of the following two approaches will be used at the next refueling outage to demonstrate the operability of the valves:

- (1) A modification will be performed to permit periodic flow testing of these valves, or
- (2) SI-159 will be removed, inspected, and tested. The results of this inspection can be used to determine the need for inspecting SI-160 and the need for further inspections.

Performance of either inspection/test would be costly. The first option would require an extensive system modification, and the second an expenditure of approximately \$40,000 to process waste water removed from the SWIRT and recirculation line. The District is presently evaluating both options to determine effectiveness and long term cost impact.

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The results of the inspection/test will be submitted to the Commission for review, along with recommendations for future inspection and testing, as deemed appropriate. The District is confident that either of these measures will satisfy the Commission's concern.

Sincerely,

T. E. Short
Assistant General Manager

TES/KJM/BJH:jmm

cc: LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae
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