



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

March 18, 1994

Docket No. 50-298

Mr. Guy R. Horn
Vice-President, Nuclear
Nebraska Public Power District
Post Office Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Dear Mr. Horn:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 93-03, "RESOLUTION OF ISSUES RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL INSTRUMENTATION IN BWRs" (TAC NO. M86888)

We acknowledge receipt of your response, dated July 29, 1993, to NRC Bulletin (NRCB) 93-03. The NRCB was issued May 28, 1993, to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling water reactors (BWRs) with the exception of Millstone 1 and Big Rock Point. The NRCB requested licensees to take short term compensatory measures within 15 days of the NRCB to ensure operators can identify and mitigate potential level errors. The NRCB also requested licensees to implement hardware modifications at the first cold shutdown after July 30, 1993, to ensure the level instrumentation system design is of high functional reliability for long-term operation.

Your response stated that you: (1) had implemented appropriate short-term compensatory measures, (2) were going to install a continuous backfill modification into the two divisional reactor pressure vessel water level instrumentation cold reference legs using the control rod drive system, similar to the one used by Northeast Utilities Co. at Millstone 1, (3) that installation of the hardware modification would be complete on August 6, 1993, and, (4) post-modification acceptance testing would be completed during the next plant shutdown and startup following completion of hardware installation.

We also acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 9, 1994, which stated that you had satisfactorily completed acceptance testing of the continuous backfill modification under various plant conditions and that the backfill system was placed in service on January 21, 1994. This letter satisfied the 30-day reporting requirement contained in the NRCB with respect to completion of hardware modifications.

Based upon the information provided in your July 29, 1993, and February 9, 1994, letters, we consider your response to NRCB 93-03 acceptable. Please retain records related to your actions taken in response to this NRCB for possible future inspection by the NRC staff.

This completes the licensing action for TAC No. M86888. On November 26, 1993, the staff issued NRC Information Notice (IN) 93-89, "Potential Problems with

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BWR Level Instrumentation Backfill Modifications." The staff is still reviewing the concerns identified in this IN, and any possible actions will be addressed separately from this TAC.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Kevin A. Connaughton, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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|------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| OFC | LA:PD4-1 | PM:PD4-1 | PD:PD4-1 |
| NAME | PNoonan | KConnaughton/bc | WBeckner |
| DATE | 3/16/94 | 3/16/94 | 3/16/94 |
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Sincerely,



Kevin A. Connaughton, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Vice-President, Nuclear

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cc:

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