

DEC 13 1990

Docket No. 50-298/90-15
License No. DPR-46

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: George A. Trevors, Senior Staff
Advisor - Nuclear Power Group
P.O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letters of May 30, and November 15, 1990, in response to our letter and Notice of Violation dated April 30, 1990, and our letters dated June 21 and September 17, 1990. We have reviewed your latest response, dated November 15, 1990, and find it responsive to the concerns raised in our Notice of Violation. Although we recognize that you are not convinced that you were at variance with the ASME Code for visual inspection certain Class 3 component supports, your corrective actions are such that we accept them as sufficient. When your code inquiry is complete, we would be pleased to discuss the response with you. We shall review your implementation of corrective actions during a future inspection.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Samuel J. Collins

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

cc w/Enclosure:

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: G. D. Watson, General Counsel
P.O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

RIV:RI:PSS
CJohnson/cjg
12/12/90

C:PSS
TStetka
12/12/90

D:DRS
LJCallan
12/12/90

D:DRS
SJCcollins
12/13/90

Nebraska Public Power District

-2-

Cooper Nuclear Station
ATTN: John M. Meacham, Division
Manager, Nuclear Operations
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Nebraska Department of Environmental
Control
ATTN: Dennis Grams, Director
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
ATTN: Larry Bohlken, Chairman
Nemaha County Courthouse
1824 N Street
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Nebraska Department of Health
ATTN: Harold Borchert, Director
Division of Radiological Health
301 Centennial Mall, South
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Kansas Radiation Control Program Director

bcc w/Enclosure:

bcc to DMB (IE01)

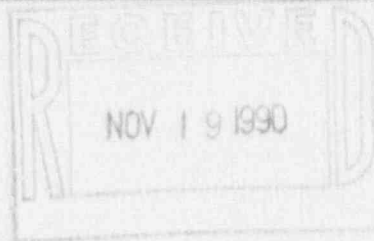
bcc distrib. by RIV:

R. D. Martin	Resident Inspector
Section Chief (DRP/C)	Lisa Shea, RM/ALF
DRSS-FRPS	MIS System
RIV File	Project Engineer (DRP/C)
RITS Operator	DRP
Senior Resident Inspector - River Bend	
Senior Resident Inspector - Fort Calhoun	
P. O'Connor, NRR Project Manager (MS: 11-D-23)	
DRS	
T. Stetka	
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Nebraska Public Power District

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
P.O. BOX 98, BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA 68321
TELEPHONE (402) 825-3811



CNSS907516
November 15, 1990

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: NPPD Response to NRC Inspection Report 50-298/90-15
Cooper Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-298

- References:
1. Letter from S. J. Collins (NRC) to G. A. Trevors (NPPD), dated April 30, 1990, Transmittal of Inspection Report 90-15.
 2. Letter from G. A. Trevors (NPPD) to S. J. Collins (NRC), dated May 30, 1990, NPPD Response to Inspection Report 50-298/90-15.
 3. Letter from S. J. Collins (NRC) to G. A. Trevors (NPPD), dated September 17, 1990.
 4. Letter from G. A. Trevors (NPPD) to NRC, dated October 12, 1990.

Gentlemen:

This letter is written in response to your letters dated April 30, 1990, and September 17, 1990, concerning Inspection Report 50-298/90-15. Therein you indicated that one of our activities was in violation of NRC requirements.

Following is a statement of the violation and our response.

STATEMENT OF VIOLATION

Failure to Include ASME Class 3 Nonintegral Component Supports in the ISI Program

Technical Specification 4.6.G for Cooper Nuclear Station states, in part, that inservice inspection of ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 components shall be performed in accordance with Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and applicable Addenda.

Paragraph IWD-2620, "Visual Examination VT-3", of Section XI of the ASME code states, in part, that the component supports and restraints within the boundary of each system specified in the examination categories of Table IWD-2500-1 shall be subject to the visual examination of VT-3 and shall be performed at the frequency specified in Table IWD-2500-1 (which is each inspection interval).

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Contrary to the above, Class 3 nonintegral component supports from within the boundary of each system specified in Table IWD-2500-1 were not included in the first and second 10-year ISI Program for VT-3 visual examinations.

Reason for Violation

Since the issuance of Inspection Report 90-15, there have been several discussions between the NRC and NPPD concerning the interpretation of ASME Section XI code requirements for inspecting Class 3 component supports. This issue has been further complicated by the apparent ambiguity of the exemption criteria of the code for Class 3 component supports. Cooper Nuclear Station's current 10-year ISI inspection interval is based on the 1980 Edition Winter 1981 Addenda of Section XI.

The NRC's interpretation of the code differs from NPPD's in the area of the selection process for supports to be examined. Due to the complexity of the code requirements, NPPD made a good faith effort to obtain clarification by submitting two inquiry questions to the ASME Section XI Code Committee at its quarterly meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, on May 14, 1990. These inquiry questions and the Code Committee replies, which were submitted in Reference 2, supported NPPD's original conclusion. After further review of this issue, including re-evaluation of all available information, the District has again concluded that there may not have been a violation of NRC requirements, since NPPD's interpretation of the code did not violate the intent of ASME Section XI or Technical Specification 4.6.G.

It is NPPD's understanding from Reference 3 that the NRC intends to submit inquiry questions to the ASME Section XI Code Committee meeting in December, 1990 to further clarify its position. NPPD supports this action and is willing to assist in development of additional inquiry questions to further clarify the intent of the code concerning examination requirements for Class 3 component supports.

Corrective Steps Which Have Been Taken and Results Achieved

At this time, the District is not yet convinced that a violation existed. However, as a result of our re-evaluation of the CNS ISI Program selection criteria for supports, certain Class 3 component supports associated with integral attachments were added to the CNS ISI Program. The addition of these originally exempted supports is based upon using an "and" in lieu of an "or" requirement in the District's interpretation of IWD-1220.2(a) and (b). These supports and their associated integral attachments were inspected during the 1990 Refueling Outage and all were found to be satisfactory.

Corrective Steps Which Will Be Taken to Avoid Further Violations

As a result of our extensive re-evaluation of code requirements in response to this Notice of Violation, NPPD considers it prudent to further supplement the CNS ISI Program for component supports (beyond ASME code requirements). This augmented inspection program will balance the CNS ISI Program with the addition of VT-3/4 examination of selected component supports (including associated integral or nonintegral attachments) of the safety related steam generator and reactor equipment cooling systems.

Furthermore, a representative sample of supports associated with nonintegral attachments will be added to the augmented inspection program for non-exempt portions of Class 3 piping.

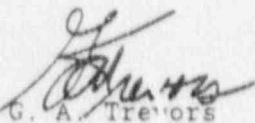
This action is consistent with current CNS management philosophy that a representative sample of safety related supports should be routinely inspected, regardless of code requirements.

Date When Full Compliance Will Be Achieved

All program enhancements mentioned herein will be included in an augmented inspection program by the completion of the 1991 Refueling Outage. The District is of the opinion that a violation of NRC requirements may not have occurred. The December 1990 code inquiry should clarify this position. If not, a supplement to this response will be issued addressing all remaining outstanding issues.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



G. A. Trevors
Senior Staff Advisor
Nuclear Power Group

GAT:GEH:sa

cc: Regional Administrator
U.S. NRC - Region IV

NRC Resident Inspector
Cooper Nuclear Station