Docket No. 50-298/90-09 License No. DPR-46

Nebraska Public Power District ATTN: Guy R. Horn, Nuclear Power Group Manager P.O. Box 499 Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Gentlemen:

This letter documents the telephone conversation between your staff and the NRC Region IV staff on February 6, 1991. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the safety evaluation on the environmental qualification (EQ) of taped splices for use in instrumentation circuits that could be subjected to harsh environments.

As discussed in the *elephone conversation, the NRC concluded that the two test reports and supporting analysis submitted by your staff did not demonstrate EO of such splices in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50.49. We have also concluded that continued use of the existing taped splices for the reactor vessel level and for the other identified splices would be permissible based upon the fact that the splices would be subjected only to a radiation harsh environment for the accident they would be required to mitigate. We understand, however, that you intend to replace all the identified splices with a "qualified configuration" during your 1991 refueling outage. Your approach to this issue is both conservative and responsive.

We consider the issue resolved, and no response to this letter is required. Should you have any further questions concerning the qualification of taped splices, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely, Original Signed By: Samuel J. Collins

Samuel J. Collins, Director Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

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

RIV:PSS* CJFaulk:lt //91 AC:PSS* WFSmith / /91 ADD:DRSTDA TFStetka 2/H/91 AD:DRS JoHII

D:DRE SOCETTINS 8-/13/91

*previously concurred

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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 to DMB (IEO1)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

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