



Nebraska Public Power District

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
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LQA8200018

November 12, 1982

Mr. Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Shift Staffing at Cooper Nuclear Station

Dear Mr. Vassallo:

Your letter dated October 14, 1982 requested that we provide certain information to you within 30 days in regards to shift staffing requirements. Following is our response to each of the items listed in your letter.

- 1. The number of currently licensed SROs that are available for shift assignments; i.e., those not members of management or training personnel whose assignments to an operating shift would adversely affect current operational assignments.

Response: We have nine SRO licensed personnel that are available for shift assignments. Five of these SRO licensed personnel are Shift Supervisors and four fill the position of Unit Operator I.

We have six additional personnel that have a SRO license and are qualified to fill a Shift Supervisor position. They are the Asst. to Station Supt., the Operations Supervisor, the Engineering Supervisor and two SRO licensed personnel that have a position title of Shift Supervisor but have prime responsibility for coordinating surveillance tests and operator licensing training. Our Maintenance Planner and Scheduler also holds a SRO license; he is a previous Unit Operator I and has maintained reasonable proficiency for that position. However, all of the above six personnel have prime job functions that would be adversely affected if they were put in a shift assignment for a length of time.

- 2. The number of personnel in training for a senior license, the source of these individuals if currently licensed ROs, and the expected date they will be ready for NRC senior license examination.

Response: We have four RO licensed operators currently filling Unit Operator II positions that are also in training for a senior license. Two of these persons have taken the SRO exam twice but have not yet passed the written exam. Since they have failed the exam the second time, it is our understanding that they will be unable to be reexamined

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prior to April 1983. The two other RO licensed operators plan to take the SRO exam in January 1983.

3. The number of currently licensed ROs that are available for shift assignment; i.e., those not in training for SROs or involved in other critical activities.

Response: We have nine total RO licensed operators. All of them are currently performing shift assignments. It will be necessary to remove the four SRO license candidates for a period of time for extensive studying prior to taking the SRO exam.

4. The number of personnel in training for an operator's license, the source of these individuals (such as station operators), and the expected date they will be ready for an NRC operator's license examination.

Response: We currently have three station operators in training to take the RO exam in January 1983.

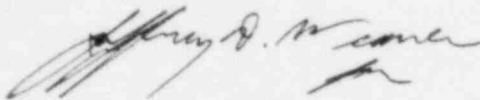
5. Your plans for maintaining a reasonable "pipeline" of trainees for the various licensed positions that provides assurance against future licensed operator shortages.

Response: The staffing has been approved for six complete shifts of operators and, in addition, three positions have been approved for operators in training for a license. Two positions have also been approved for training non-licensed station operator positions. We currently have an excess of Navy nuclear trained station operators that should be able to go into the licensed operator training program in 1983 to provide a reasonable "pipeline" of licensed operator trainees. We also plan to identify and correct the problem of a high failure rate of SRO licensed candidates.

We will be vulnerable and should continue to expect problems with our shift staffing as long as there is a shortage of licensed operators in the industry and as long as "consulting" groups lure away licensed operators to support plants in testing and startup.

We hope that this provides the information you requested. If not, please contact L. C. Lessor at the site.

Sincerely,



J. M. Pilant
Division Manager of
Licensing & Quality Assurance

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