



Nebraska Public Power District

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
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NLS950054
February 20, 1995

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Reply to Notice of Violation
NRC Inspection Report No. 50-298/94-34
Cooper Nuclear Station, NRC Docket 50-298, DPR-46

Gentlemen:

The Nebraska Public Power District (District) hereby submits its response to the Notice of Violation (NOV) transmitted with NRC Inspection Report No. 50-298/94-34. This inspection report documents the results of the NRC inspection conducted by Mr. T. W. Dexter on December 19-23, 1994, on activities authorized at Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS). The NRC identified one violation during its inspection of CNS. An explanation of the violation and corrective actions taken in response to the violation is presented below.

Statement of Violation

Cooper Nuclear Station Safeguards Plan, Revision 31, dated September 1, 1994, paragraph 1.5.3.2, "Search," states, in part, handcarried packages will either be physically searched or processed through a x-ray inspection system prior to entering the protected area.

Contrary to the above, on December 22, 1994, the inspector observed two individuals by-pass the x-ray machine and carry a computer monitor and keyboard through the metal and explosive detectors. The metal detector alarmed when the computer equipment passed through the detection system. However, the security officers did not physically search the equipment to determine the cause of the metal detector alarm until questioned by the inspector.

This is a Severity Level IV Violation (Supplement III)(50-298/9434-01).

Admission or Denial of Violation

The District admits the violation.

Reason for the Violation

The reason for the violation was a misapplication of exemption categories in the package/material search program that allowed certain items to be erroneously categorized as exempt from search due to potential damage from x-rays (Category III Exemption List, paragraph 1.5.3.2 of the CNS Safeguards Plan) or factory assembly (Category IV Exemption List, same reference). This misapplication of exemption categories resulted in no alternate physical inspection being performed in lieu of the x-ray inspection, such as the application of power and a demonstration that the equipment was functional and therefore unaltered.

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Immediate Corrective Actions and Results Achieved

Based on a review with several manufacturers of computer equipment and computer and communications personnel, it was determined that many computer items such as keyboards, data switches, and laptop computers can be normally processed through an x-ray system without damage. Such hand-carried equipment is now routinely inspected by the x-ray system. Hand-carried electronic equipment that cannot be x-rayed due to its size or because the potential for damage exists, is now required to be visually inspected for tampering and have power applied to demonstrate operability.

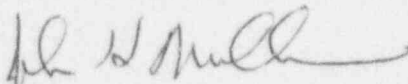
Actions Taken to Prevent Recurrence

Because of the potential for a generic problem with the misapplication of the exempt category lists, a review of the search procedure was conducted to ensure no other hand-carried packages or materials could enter the site without being properly searched. The procedure has been revised to require inspection and testing when appropriate, and all security officers have received retraining on all job tasks associated with the search process.

Date When Full Compliance Will Be Achieved

The District is in full compliance with the Cooper Nuclear Station Safeguards Plan.

Sincerely,



John H. Mueller
Site Manager

/nr

cc: Regional Administrator
USNRC - Region 14
Arlington, Texas

NRC Resident Inspector
Cooper Nuclear Station

NPG Distribution

Correspondence No: NLS950054

The following table identifies those actions committed to by the District in this document. Any other actions discussed in the submittal represent intended or planned actions by the District. They are described to the NRC for the NRC's information and are not regulatory commitments. Please notify the Licensing Manager at Cooper Nuclear Station of any questions regarding this document or any associated regulatory commitments.

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