

JAN 27 1992

Docket No. 50-298
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:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-298/92-01

This refers to the inspection conducted by Dr. D. B. Spitzberg and Mr. K. Kennedy of this office on January 6-10, 1992. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Cooper Nuclear Station. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of the plant staff identified in the enclosed report. Subsequent telephone conversations were held between Mr. D. Whitman of your staff and Dr. Spitzberg on January 14 and 17, 1992, to report the progress of interim corrective measures to inspection findings which your organization committed to in the exit interview of January 10, 1992.

Areas examined during the inspection included a review of the operational status of the emergency preparedness program. Also examined were regional initiatives in the areas of knowledge and performance of duties, protective action decisionmaking, and emergency detection and classification. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and evaluation of personnel proficiency in performing emergency response duties. Findings are documented in the enclosed inspection report.

Based on the results of the inspection, four exercise weaknesses were identified during walkthroughs conducted with operating crews. Weaknesses were identified in the areas of emergency classification, notification messages, dose assessment and formulation of protective action recommendations.

We have also identified actions you have taken with regard to previously identified inspection findings. The status of these items is identified in paragraph 2 of the enclosed report.

Exercise weaknesses according to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E.IV.F.5, are inspection findings that need to be corrected by the licensee. We are particularly concerned about the weaknesses identified, because they raise questions related to the effectiveness of your emergency response training and

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DBSpitzberg:nh
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C:FIPS
BMurray
1/22/92

OLS:DRS
KKennedy
1/22/92

D:DRSS
LCCallan
1/23/92

D:DRS
ABBeach
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the abilities of control room operators to implement the emergency plan and procedures in response to rapidly escalating emergency conditions.

A management meeting to discuss the exercise weaknesses has been scheduled for March 18, 1992, in the Region IV office. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the exercise weaknesses, their root causes, and to provide you the opportunity to present your proposed corrective actions. You are requested to provide this office with a written description of your corrective measures and your schedule for completing these actions. Your response may be presented at the management meeting. We will provide you with an agenda for the management meeting by separate correspondence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

A. Bill Beach, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure:

Appendix - NRC Inspection Report
50-298/92-01

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: G. D. Watson, General Counsel
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Nebraska Department of Environmental
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ATTN: Randolph Wood, Director
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Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
ATTN: Larry Bohlken, Chairman
Nemaha County Courthouse
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Nebraska Department of Health
ATTN: Harold Borchert, Director
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Kansas Radiation Control Program Director

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bcc to DMB (IE35)

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