



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

511 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

NOV 30 1995

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: Guy R. Horn, Vice President - Nuclear
1414 15th Street
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

SUBJECT: REDUCED-SCOPE ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM INSPECTION

This is in response to your November 6, 1995, request for a reduction in the scope of the NRC engineering and technical support team inspection. You requested that we reduce the scope of this inspection based on your plans to perform a self-assessment of your engineering program. The inspection is scheduled to be performed during January 8-22, 1996, in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 37550, "Engineering." Your request was submitted in accordance with NRC Inspection Procedure 40501, "Licensee Self-Assessments Related to Team Inspections."

The NRC encourages licensee self-assessments and recognizes that this effort is an opportunity for your staff to take ownership for any existing weaknesses within the engineering program. The ability to perform a critical self-assessment is a fundamental attribute of an excellent engineering organization. Therefore, I strongly encourage your efforts to perform self-assessments of this and other programs.

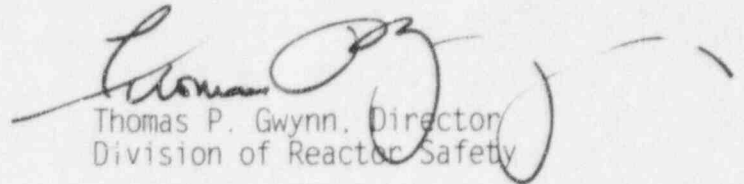
Notwithstanding the excellent self-assessment effort that you demonstrated during your extended shutdown, your recent SALP rating of Category 3 in the engineering functional area is not indicative of overall good performance. As you know, it is our normal practice to increase inspection effort by performing both the core and focused regional initiative inspection at facilities with SALP Category 3 ratings. Because of your recent Category 3 rating in this area, we believe that an alternative approach is appropriate in this instance.

We believe that it would be reasonable to delay the planned core engineering inspection based upon the performance of a technically credible engineering program self-assessment of an equivalent scope and depth as Inspection Procedure 37550. As we recently discussed with your Engineering Manager, Mr. Phil Graham, we propose delaying our core engineering inspection at the Cooper Nuclear Station in order to allow you time to perform your planned self-assessment of the engineering program and to take appropriate action based on your results. My staff will monitor the performance of the self-assessment in accordance with Inspection Procedure 40501. Based on the quality and results of your self-assessment, the NRC will determine what additional engineering inspection is appropriate at the Cooper Nuclear Station and may eliminate the planned regional initiative inspection.

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Mr. Chris A. VanDenburgh is the primary point of contact for this inspection. Please provide him with any further information you develop concerning your assessment plans in order to facilitate our inspection under Inspection Procedure 40501. He may be reached at (817) 860-8161.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

cc:
Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: John R. McPhail, General Counsel
P.O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: John Mueller, Site Manager
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: Robert C. Godley, Nuclear
Licensing & Safety Manager
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Midwest Power
ATTN: R. J. Singer, Manager-Nuclear
907 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 657
Des Moines, Iowa 50303

Lincoln Electric System
ATTN: Mr. Ron Stoddard
11th and O Streets
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Nebraska Department of Environmental
Quality

ATTN: Randolph Wood, 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: Cheryl Rogers, LLRW Program Manager
Environmental Protection Section
301 Centennial Mall, South
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Nebraska Department of Health

ATTN: Dr. Mark B. Horton, M.S.P.H.
Director
P.O. Box 950070
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Department of Natural Resources

ATTN: R. A. Kucera, Department Director
of Intergovernmental Cooperation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Kansas Radiation Control Program Director

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01) [redacted]
bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan
Branch Chief (DRP/C)
MIS System
Project Engineer (DRP/C)
RIV File
D. Norkin, NRR (9-A1)
R. Borchardt, NRR (12-E4)
W. Beckner, NRR (13-H3)
R. Hall, PM, NRR

Resident Inspector
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

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*previously concurred

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IE01

per McHugh on 12/5/95

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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)(IE51)
bcc distrib. by RIV:

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