

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station

Docket No. 50-298
License No. DPR-46
EA 92-043

During an NRC inspection conducted between February 5 and March 3, 1992, violations of NRC requirements were identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Action," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, the violations are listed below:

- A. 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, requires, in part, that measures shall be established to assure that conditions adverse to quality, such as failures, malfunctions, deficiencies, deviations, defective material and equipment, and nonconformances are promptly identified and corrected. In the case of significant conditions adverse to quality, the measures shall assure that the cause of the condition is determined and corrective action taken to preclude repetition.

Cooper Nuclear Station Quality Assurance Plan QAP-2300, Revision 0, Section 1.2, states that corrective action activities include nonconformance reports. Section 1.3.b states that actions taken in response to identified deficiencies include, in part, immediate corrective action and action to preclude recurrence.

Cooper Nuclear Station Technical Specification Limiting Condition for Operation 3.9.A.1.d requires that the reactor shall not be made critical unless the 250-volt batteries are operable. Surveillance Requirement 4.9.A.4.b.2 requires each connected cell of the 250-volt batteries to be 2.15 volts minimum.

Cooper Nuclear Station Updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR), Section VIII-6.5 states that periodic tests of the equipment and the system are conducted to detect the deterioration of the equipment in the system toward an unacceptable condition. The 250-volt batteries meet the requirements of "IEEE Recommended Practice for Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Large Stationary Type Power Plant and Substation Lead Storage Batteries", IEEE Standard 450-1987.

IEEE 450-1987, Section 4.4.3, states that an equalizing charge should be given immediately if any cell voltage is below 2.13 volts at the time of inspection.

Contrary to the above:

1. On December 18, 1991, the licensee measured Cell 110 of 250-volt Battery EE-BAT-250(1A) at 2.05 volts, a condition adverse to quality caused by copper contamination, and no immediate corrective action was taken to perform an equalizing charge or to remove the degraded cell from service.
2. Actions also were not taken to prevent recurrence. Redundant train 250-volt Battery EE-BAT-250(1B) was found on February 5, 1992, to be degraded due to copper contamination in that Cell 88 was measured at 2.13 volts. Again, no immediate corrective action was taken to perform an equalizing charge or to remove the degraded cell from service. On February 10, 1992, Cell 88 was measured at 2.06 volts.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I).

- B. 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion V, requires, in part, that activities affecting quality shall be prescribed by procedures of a type appropriate to the circumstances and shall be accomplished in accordance with these procedures.

Cooper Nuclear Station Procedure 0.27, Component Operability, Revision 6, Section 8.3.1, states, in part, that the Station Operation Review Committee (SORC) shall normally review within 1 working day all operability evaluations involving components subject to Technical Specification Limiting Conditions for Operations.

Contrary to the above, the operability evaluation performed on January 15, 1992, addressing the low cell voltage condition of 250-volt Battery EE-BAT-250 (1A), a component subject to Technical Specification Limiting Condition for Operation, was not reviewed by SORC.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I).

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR Part 2.201, Nebraska Public Power District is hereby required to submit a written statement or explanation to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555, with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region IV, and a copy to the NRC Resident Inspector at the facility that is the subject of this Notice. This reply should be clearly marked as a "Reply to a Notice of Violation" and should include for each alleged violation: (1) the reason for the violation or, if contested, the basis for disputing the violation, (2) the corrective steps that have been

taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. If an adequate reply is not received within the time specified in this Notice, the Commission may issue an Order or Demand for Information as to why such other action as may be proper should not be taken. Where good cause is shown, consideration may be given to extending the response time.

Dated at Arlington, Texas,
this 21st day of May 1992

MAY 21 1992

Nebraska Public Power District
NOV/EA: 02-043

bcc to DMB (IS14)

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