



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

EA 96-094

MAR 15 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-298/96-08

This refers to the inspection conducted by William J. Wagner and Phillip M. Qualls of this office on February 26 through March 1, 1996, at the Cooper Nuclear Station facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. The inspection was conducted to review your actions regarding Licensee Event Report 95-20. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

As discussed during the exit meeting on March 14, 1996, one apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), (NUREG-1600). Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. The apparent violation concerned the inadequate design of the control power circuitry for Diesel Generator 2. Your Safe and Alternate Shutdown Analysis Report identified this diesel generator as the alternate safe-shutdown equipment required to meet the fire protection requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R. However, the control power circuitry for this equipment was not adequately isolated from the effects of a control room fire, even after the equipment was modified in November 1994 to correct this previously identified problem. As a result, an electrical fault caused by a postulated or actual control room fire could have prevented the diesel generator from performing its intended function of achieving and maintaining hot shutdown.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation will be held concurrent with the conference to discuss the apparent violations identified in NRC Inspection Report 50-298/96-04. We will schedule the conference with your staff at a mutually agreeable date. The decision to hold

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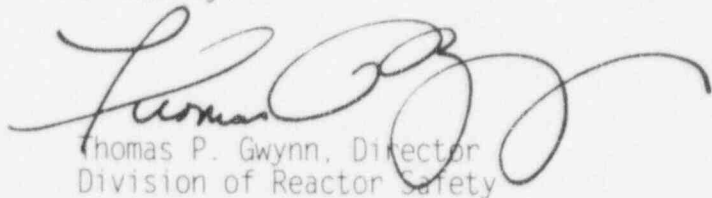
a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address why this design error was not adequately corrected after its initial identification. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violation, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII. This conference will be open to public observation in accordance with the Commission's continuing trial program as discussed in the enclosed excerpt from the Enforcement Policy (Enclosure 2). Although not required, we encourage you to provide your comments on how you believe holding this conference open to public observation affected your presentation and your communications with the NRC.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

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 (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

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

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket: 50-298
License: DPR-46

Enclosures:

1. NRC Inspection Report
50-298/96-08 w/attachment
2. Enforcement Policy: Section V

cc w/enclosures:

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Kansas Radiation Control Program Director

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to M. Davis (MJD1)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/C)
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
 Project Engineer (DRP/C)

Resident Inspector
 DRS-PSB
 MIS System
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 Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)

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 J. Lieberman
 OE:EA File

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PQualls		Wagner		WPang		CVanDerburgh		TPGwynn	
03/14/96		03/14/96		03/14/96		03/14/96		03/15/96	
EO		AC:PBC		D:DRS					
GSanborn		TReis		TPGwynn					
03/15/96		03/15/96		03/15/96		03/ /96		03/ /96	

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bcc to DMB (IE01) *///*

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PQualls <i>CP</i>		Wwagner <i>CP</i>		WPAng <i>CP</i>		CVanDerburgh <i>CP</i>		TPGwynn <i>CP</i>	
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03/15/96		03/15/96		03/15/96		03/ /96		03/ /96	

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