



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

April 11, 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-298/96-05 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. W. J. Wagner and others 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. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that one violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violation is of concern because it involved a failure to formally assess the implications of new information that challenged the operability of safety-related motor-operated valves.

One unresolved item was identified concerning the apparent past inoperable status of Valve CS-12A under an assumed pressure-locking condition postulated to occur during a design basis loss-of-coolant accident. Additionally, the inspectors challenged the validity of two analytical assumptions in your calculations that may also impact the past operability of Valve CS-12B. This matter is discussed in Section 3.3 of the enclosed inspection report.

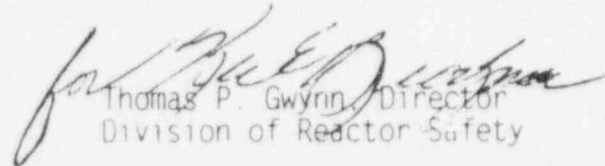
You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response 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.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

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. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report  
50-298/96-05 w/attachments

cc w/enclosures:

Nebraska Public Power District  
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Nebraska Public Power District  
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Nebraska Department of Environmental  
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Nemaha County Board of Commissioners  
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Nebraska Department of Health  
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ATTN: Dr. Mark B. Horton, M.S.P.H.  
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