

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Nebraska Public Power District (EAs 96-062 and 96-094)
Cooper Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-298

Subject: PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY - \$50,000

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$50,000 will be issued on or about April 17, 1996, to the Nebraska Public Power District. This action is based on a change to the facility, which constituted an unreviewed safety question. Specifically, in 1985, the licensee modified the steam tunnel blowout panels, which operate to relieve pressure in the steam tunnel in the event of a main steam line break, when fiberglass was applied to the panel. This significantly altered the material characteristics of the blowout panels resulting in an unreviewed safety question. The violation is also based on the existence of this condition from 1985 until its discovery in November 1995.

In determining the penalty, the licensee was not given credit for identification since the violations were discovered following questions raised by an NRC resident inspector. However, the licensee was given credit for its corrective actions once the problem was raised by the NRC.

One other Severity Level III violation was identified. The violation involved a failure to electrically isolate the control circuitry for Diesel Generator 2 from the effects of a fire-induced cable fault created by a postulated fire in the control room. No civil penalty was assessed for this violation based on the fact that the licensee identified it and took appropriate corrective actions.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Notice April 17, 1996
Telephone Notification of Licensee April 17, 1996

The States of Nebraska and Kansas will be notified.

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL
VERIFICATION THAT LICENSEE HAS RECEIVED ACTION