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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

APR 04 1985

Docket No. 50-298
License No. DPR-46
EA 85-36

Nebraska Public Power District
ATTN: J. M. Pilant, Manager, Technical
Staff-Nuclear Power Group
P. O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

Gentlemen:

As a result of your Licensee Event Report 85-001, a special inspection of the Cooper Nuclear Station was conducted by this office on February 26, 1985 of activities authorized by NRC Operating License No. DPR-46. The inspection results confirm that a violation of Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements occurred in that secondary containment requirements of 1/4 inch of water vacuum were not established during the defueling operation conducted from September 22 through 29, 1984. The apparent violation was discussed at a meeting between members of your plant staff and members of the Region IV staff at Cooper Nuclear Station on February 26, 1985.

The inspection revealed that a combination of water buildup and a plugged drain line in the SGBT system discharge lines were major contributors to the loss of secondary containment. In addition, the SGBT system failed to pass a surveillance test conducted on September 18, 1984, which was to demonstrate secondary containment integrity. This failure was incorrectly attributed to a dismantled exhaust valve. The surveillance test was then considered to be successfully completed on September 20, 1984, and it was not recognized at that time that the actual cause of the failure had not been corrected and other plant conditions contributed to the success of that test. Subsequent investigation and review by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) of the September 18, 1984 event revealed the true problem with the SGBT system and identified the violation of secondary containment which was reported to the NRC in License Event Report 85-001.

The violation in the Notice of Violation has been classified at Severity Level III in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C, as revised, 49 FR 8583 (March 8, 1984). Although civil penalties are considered for Severity Level III violations, a civil penalty is not proposed in this case as a result of your identification and prompt reporting of the violation and your extensive corrective actions to prevent recurrence. Upon identifying the problem you took immediate steps to restore the system to operability, and initiated long term corrective actions which involved changes to the surveillance procedures, training of licensed operators, and the hiring of an outside engineering firm to conduct an independent review of the SGBT system.

RIV/RPB1/A
JPJaudon
4/4/85

RPB1
EHJohnson
4/4/85

DRSP
RPDenise
A/A/85

EO
TFWesterman
4/4/85

RC
WBrown
4/4/85

KRA
RDMartin
4/4/85

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PDR ADOCK 05000298
Q PDR

DESIGNATED ORIGINAL

Certified By *L. S. Knechtel* 4/4/85

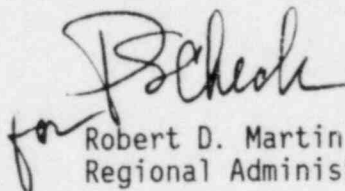
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You are required to respond in writing to the enclosed Notice attached to this letter and you should follow the instructions specified therein when preparing your response. Your written reply to this letter and the results of future inspections will be the basis for determining whether additional enforcement actions are warranted.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and accompanying Notice of Violation are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert D. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
Notice of Violation

cc w/encl:
Paul V. Thomason, Division Manager
of Nuclear Operations
Cooper Nuclear Station
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Nebraska Public Power District

Distribution

PDR

LPDR

bcc to DMB (~~IE14~~, IE³³01)

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*see RIV
concurrance*

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