

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20656

February 19, 1993

Docket No. 50-298

Mr. Guy R. Horn Nuclear Power Group Manager Nebraska Public Power District Post Office Box 499 Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Dear Mr. Horn:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 92-04, "RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUES RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL INSTRUMENTATION IN BOILING WATER REACTORS" - COOPER NUCLEAR STATION (TAC NO. M84275)

This letter acknowledges receipt of your response to Generic Letter (GL) 92-04, dated September 28, 1992. GL 92-04 was issued by letter dated August 19, 1992, to all operating Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) licensees. GL 92-04 requested licensees to promptly assess the impact on their facilities of potentially erroneous level indication due to non-condensible gases and to implement compensatory measures and long-term corrective actions as necessary.

We find acceptable:

- (1) The review by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) of the BWR Owners' Group (BWROG) generic analysis and NPPD's acceptance of the analysis as applicable to the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS).
- (2) NPPD's endorsement of the BWROG commitment, outlined in the BWROG letter dated August 12, 1992, regarding schedule and plans for actions to address postulated errors in BWR water level instrumentation.
- (3) NPPD's endorsement of the August 19, 1992, guidance letter by the Emergency Procedures Committee of the BWROG. This letter provides guidance for operator action in the event of level indication errors due to non-condensible gases during reactor pressure vesseel (RPV) depressurization. We also understand that you have sensitized your operators to these potential errors consistent with the BWROG guidance.
- (4) NPPD's commitment to implement the longer-term BWROG finding resulting from the BWROG experimental and analytical programs on a schedule consistent with the BWROG program, as documented in the BWROG letter of August 12, 1992, and discussed at the October 29, 1992, meeting with the NRC.

On October 23, 1992, the BWROG approved the refined operator guidance, developed by the Emergency Procedures Committee, that had been sent to your

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Operations Superintendent on October 16, 1992, for response to instrument errors due to non-condensible gases. We feel that this guidance provides appropriate information for operators to adequately identify and deal with potentially inaccurate RPV level instrumentation, and expect that this or equivalent guidance has been incorporated into your station operations.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 504-1352.

Sincerely,

Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager

Project Directorate IV-1

Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

cc:

Mr. G. D. Watson, General Counsel Nebraska Public Powe: District P. O. Box 499 Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

Cooper Nuclear Station ATTN: Mr. John M. Meacham Site Manager P. O. Box 98 Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Randolph Wood, Director
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Mr. Richard Moody, Chairman Nemaha County Board of Commissioners Nemaha County Courthouse 1824 N Street Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Senior Resident Inspector U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission P. O. Box 218 Brownville, Neuraska 68321

Regional Administrator, Region IV U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000 Arlington, Texas 76011

Mr. Harold Borchert, Director Division of Radiological Health Nebraska Department of Health 301 Centennial Mall, South P. O. Box 95007 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007 Operations Superintendent on October 16, 1992, for response to instrument errors due to non-condensible gases. We feel that this guidance provides appropriate information for operators to adequately identify and deal with potentially inaccurate RPV level instrumentation, and expect that this or equivalent guidance has been incorporated into your station operations.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 504-1352.

Sincerely,

/S/ Harry Rood, Senior Project Manager Project Directorate IV-1 Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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