



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

June 27, 1997

EA 97-251

S. K. Gambhir, Division Manager
Production Engineering
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 399
Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023-0399

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-285/97-06 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Gambhir:

An NRC inspection was conducted April 14-18 and April 28 through May 2, 1997, at your Fort Calhoun Station reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection. The overall conclusions of this inspection were discussed with yourself and other members of your staff on June 26, 1997.

With the exception of the concerns in the fire protection area, the team concluded that your conduct of engineering activities was generally good; however, two violations were identified. These violations involved the failure to maintain design control and to properly update the Updated Safety Analysis Report.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In addition, six apparent violations of fire protection program requirements were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. No Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

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A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for July 14, 1997 at 1:00 pm in the Region IV office. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has made a final determination that violations 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 violations sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. During this conference we request that you include a basis for your position that your installed water curtain for Fire Areas 6 and 20 was adequate. We also request that you address the potential increase in risk that occurred due to your finding regarding the lack of protection from a control room fire for the protected diesel generator. Specifically, it appears that your Individual Plant Examination for External Events results, as reported on June 30, 1995, are predicated on the assumption that the plant is in compliance with the applicable Appendix R requirements. As a result, the potential effects of the non-compliance with the separation requirements associated with the protected diesel generator do not appear to be bounded by the existing analysis.

In addition, this conference 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 violations, 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 Enforcement Policy.

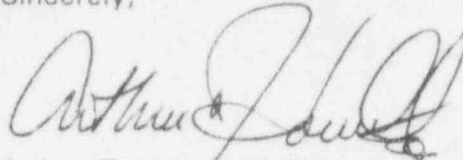
It is our understanding that, during the exit meeting that was conducted on May 2, 1997, you stated that Omaha Public Power District would commit to perform a safety system functional inspection of the fire protection system. Please confirm this regulatory commitment in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter, that our understanding of this commitment is correct.

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-285
License No.: DPR-40

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-285/97-06

cc w/enclosures:

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E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

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