



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 3, 1988

The Honorable Douglas Bereuter
Member, United States
House of Representatives
P. O. Box 82887
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

Dear Congressman Bereuter:

I am pleased to respond to your referral of July 13, 1988 forwarding a letter from a constituent, Mr. Samuel J. Burris. Mr. Burris expressed concern regarding whether the Fort Calhoun Station posed a threat to the safety of the public, based on his understanding that the licensee had been issued notices of violation and civil penalties.

Omaha Public Power District, the licensee for the Fort Calhoun Station, received several enforcement actions in the past year that resulted in the assessment of civil penalties. These fines were the result of violations involving (1) the inoperability of an emergency diesel generator after water had been inadvertently introduced into an air system that operates various plant valve operators, and (2) the failure to maintain locked doors, within the plant and not accessible to the public, that lead to high radiation areas. In addition to the payment of the civil penalties, the licensee was required to determine and to correct the causes that led to these violations and to inform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its actions. These corrective actions have been initially inspected, and further reviews will continue, as necessary, by the Commission to ensure an effective long term resolution.

Mr. Burris should be assured that the Commission's mission is the protection of the public health and safety arising from the operation of all nuclear power generating stations. To ensure that no facility poses an undue risk to the public, an extensive inspection program has been established that provides resident inspectors at each plant site supplemented by other specialized technical personnel from the NRC regional and headquarters offices. In this regard, the NRC has expended approximately 5,200 direct inspection hours at the Fort Calhoun Station from October 1, 1986, through April 30, 1988. Recently, senior management personnel have reviewed in detail the operation of the facility and have determined that, although the facility is being operated in accordance with regulations, it has shown signs of a downward trend in several areas. Although the licensee is aware of these concerns and is actively working to upgrade its performance, the NRC is increasing its inspection effort to ensure that the licensee is making progress. Senior NRC management personnel again will review this operation within the next 6 months to evaluate the inspection results and licensee performance.

In summary, the Commission has determined that the continued operation of the Fort Calhoun Station does not presently pose an undue risk to the health and safety of the public. The Commission is vitally concerned that the Fort

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Calhoun Station, as well as all other nuclear power plants, is operated in full compliance with NRC requirements. Omaha Public Power District has taken several important initiatives to ensure the continued improvement of the operation of the facility which the Commission will be closely monitoring. These actions, in combination with the added NRC inspection effort, should ensure that the licensee continues to meet all its regulatory commitments.

I hope that the information I have provided is responsive to the concern expressed by Mr. Burris.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James M. Taylor

Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director
for Operations

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File	VStello	RMartin, RIV
NRC PDR w/incoming	TMurley	LCallan, RIV
Local PDR w/incoming	JSniezek	PMilano
EDO #0003842	FMiraglia	TMartin
EDO Reading	DCrutchfield	FGillespie
SECY #CRC-88-0653	LRubenstein	CA
OGC-Rockville	JCalvo	

*see previous concurrences

*LA:PD4	*PM:PD4	*TECH ED	*D:PD4	*OGC
PNocnan	PMilano/sr		JCalvo	JSinto
7/25/88	7/25/88	7/25/88	7/25/88	7/26/88

*ADR4SP	*D:DRSP	*ADP	*DONRR	EDD	OGC
LRubenstein	DCrutchfield	FMiraglia	TMurley	VStello	<i>[Signature]</i>
7/27/88	8/27/88	8/27/88	8/28/83	8/1/88	8/3/88



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ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM:

DUE: 08/02/88

EDO CONTROL: 0003842
DOC DT: 07/13/88
FINAL REPLY:

Rep. Doug Bereuter

TO:

NRC

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

** GRN **

CRC NO: 88-0653

Executive Director

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM SAMUEL J. BURRIS CONCERNING
FORT CALHOUN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

RMartin
Lieberman

DATE: 07/19/88

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Murley

Rebustien/Calvo

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:
Reply to Lincoln, NE office.

NRR RECEIVED: JULY 19, 1988
ACTION: DRSP:CRUTCHFIELD

NRR ROUTING: MURLEY/SNIEZEK
MIRAGLIA
MARTIN
GILLESPIE
MOSSBURG

ACTION
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
BY July 28, 1988

