Omaha Public Power District
1623 Harney Omaha, Nebraska 68102-2247
402/536-4000

September 14, 1988
LIC-88-807

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, DC 20555

References: 1. Docket No. 50-285
2. Technical Specification 2.21 and Table 2-10

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: Special Report on Heated Junction Thermocouple Inoperability

Fort Calhoun Station Technical Specification Table 2-10, footnote (k) states that:

"With the number of OPERABLE channels one less than the minimum channels operable requirement,

1. either restore the inoperable channel(s) to OPERABLE status within 7 days of discovery of loss of operability if repairs are feasible during power operation (MODE 1), or

2. prepare and submit a special report to the Commission pursuant to Specification 5.9.3 within 30 days of discovery of loss of operability outlining the action taken, the cause of the inoperability, and the plans for restoring the system to operable status."

This letter is to inform you of the inoperability of Channel "B" of the Reactor Vessel Level Instrumentation, and the actions taken to return the channel to an operable status.

On October 30, 1987, Amendment 110 to the Technical Specifications became effective. This amendment requires that two channels of the Heated Junction Thermo couples (HJTC) be operable for the purpose of indicating reactor vessel level. A channel consists of eight sensors in a probe; and each sensor has an associated heater element. A channel is considered operable if four or more sensors, two or more in the upper four and two or more in the lower four, are operable. The probe assemblies are supplied by Combustion Engineering.

On August 15, 1988 the #8 sensor of the 'B' channel Heated Junction Thermocouple Probe failed resulting in the 'B' channel Reactor Vessel Level Instrumentation to be inoperable. OPPD is currently purchasing replacement sensors from Combustion Engineering to replace the inoperable sensors in the 'B' channel. The 'A' channel Reactor Vessel Level Instrumentation is operable.

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This letter is submitted to meet the requirements of Technical Specifications 2.21, Table 2-10 and 5.9.3. If you have any questions please contact us.

Sincerely,

K. J. Morris
Division Manager
Nuclear Operations

KJM/rh

cc: LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae
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R. D. Martin, NRC Regional Administrator
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