



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

OCT - 8 1999

J. H. Swailes, Vice President of
Nuclear Energy
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-298/99-03

Dear Mr. Swailes:

This refers to the inspection conducted on August 23 to 27 and September 7 to 10, 1999, at the Cooper Nuclear Station facility. The purpose of the inspection was to ensure that the licensee had effective programs for (1) identifying, evaluating, and correcting problems which could impact safe plant operations and (2) correcting and limiting non-compliance with NRC regulations. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

On the basis of the sample reviewed, your corrective action program was generally implemented with an appropriate threshold for identifying and classifying adverse conditions. During the review of problem identification reports and other associated corrective action documents, the inspectors observed untimely long-term corrective actions associated with the operation of the residual heat removal system, which resulted in a operable but degraded condition for years. In addition, the logic testing associated with the residual heat removal system was an example of a failure to implement prompt and adequate corrective actions similar to issues identified in a previous noncited violation documented in NRC Inspection Report 50-298/99-04.

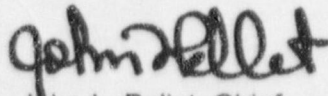
Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two Severity Level IV violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as noncited violations, consistent with the Interim Enforcement Policy for pilot plants. These noncited violations are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of these noncited violations, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV, 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400, Arlington, Texas 76011, the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Cooper Nuclear Station facility.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if requested, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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PDR ADOCK 05000298
G PDR

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

Sincerely,



John L. Pellet, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-298
License No.: DPR-46

Enclosures:
NRC Inspection Report No.
50-298/99-03

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E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
 E-mail report to D. Lange (DJL)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)

E-Mail all documents to Jim Isom for Pilot Plant Program (JAI)
 E-Mail all documents to Sampath Malur for Pilot Plant Program (SKM)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator

DRP Director

DRS Director

Branch Chief (DRP/C)

Project Engineer (DRP/C)

Resident Inspector

RIV File

RITS Coordinator

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