



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

July 6, 2011

Mr. Brian J. O'Grady, Vice President-Nuclear
And Chief Nuclear Officer
Nebraska Public Power
Cooper Nuclear Station
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. O'Grady:

As a result of its continuous review of plant performance, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) updated its assessment of Cooper Nuclear Station. The NRC's evaluation consisted of a review of performance indicators and inspection results. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment and its plans for a future inspection and your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supersede, the annual assessment letter issued on March 4, 2011.

On June 10, 2011, the NRC forwarded a letter that stated the final significance determination of a White inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone. The finding involves the failure to verify that procedure steps to safely shut down the plant in the event of a fire would actually reposition three motor-operated valves to the required positions, while addressing a previous finding that involved the same procedure steps.

The NRC determined the performance at Cooper Nuclear Station to be in the Regulatory Response Column of the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix beginning on January 1, 2011. As a result of the Regulatory Response performance, a supplemental inspection will be performed in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." The objectives of this supplemental inspection are to provide assurance that the root causes and contributing causes of risk-significant performance issues are understood, provide assurance that the extent of condition and extent of cause of risk-significant performance issues are identified, and provide assurance that your corrective actions for risk-significant performance issues are sufficient to address the root and contributing causes and prevent recurrence. We will not schedule the supplemental inspection until you notify us of your readiness for the inspection.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Mr. Brian J. O'Grady
Nebraska Public Power

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Please contact Vince Gaddy at 817-860-8144 with any questions that you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


Kriss Kennedy, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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cc: Distribution via ListServ