



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

August 31, 2016

Mr. Oscar A. Limpias
Vice President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station
72676 648A Avenue
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, NE 68321

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(REPORT 05000298/2016005)**

Dear Mr. Limpias:

On August 10, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of Cooper Nuclear Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, Cooper Nuclear Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Cooper Nuclear Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2018. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the second half of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence. Additionally, the NRC plans to complete Temporary Instruction 190, "Inspection of Licensee's Proposed Interim Actions as a Result of the Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1 Flooding Evaluation," prior to the end of 2016.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," and Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to

Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation.” The NRC conducted audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders, and the information gathered will aid staff in development of the ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. After the NRC staff receives the Final Compliance letter for the site, the Safety Evaluation will be issued. Then, the NRC staff will confirm through inspections the full implementation of the orders mentioned above by performing Temporary Instruction 191, “Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans.”

As indicated in our annual assessment letter (ML16061A312) dated March 2, 2016, from January 1 to December 31, 2015, the NRC issued three Severity Level IV traditional enforcement violations associated with impeding the regulatory process. The NRC conducted Inspection Procedure (IP) 92723, “Follow up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period,” in June 2016, to assess your evaluation of these violations and review the adequacy of associated corrective actions. Based on the results of this inspection, as documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000298/2016005 (ML16211A197) dated July 29, 2016, the NRC concluded that the inspection objective involving identification of extent of condition and extent of cause of the violations was not met. Therefore, the NRC plans to complete IP 92723 to verify adequate extent of condition and extent of cause reviews once we receive notification of your readiness for inspection.

In Staff Requirements Memorandum – SECY 16-0009, “Recommendations Resulting from the Integrated Prioritization and Re-Baselining of Agency Activities,” the Commission approved the NRC staff recommendation to discontinue the formal mid-cycle assessment process beginning in calendar year 2017. This will be the final mid-cycle assessment letter. The staff will continue to conduct quarterly assessment meetings and communicate changes in the assessment of licensee performance in accordance with the guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, “Operating Reactor Assessment Program.”

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (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

O. Limpias

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NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at 817-200-1144 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Greg Warnick, Branch Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure:
Cooper Nuclear Station
Inspection/Activity Plan

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Cooper

Inspection / Activity Plan

07/01/2016 - 06/30/2018

| Unit Number | Planned Dates | | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|-------------|---------------|------------|--|---|----------------------|
| | Start | End | | | |
| | | | TI-190 - TI 2515/190 | | 1 |
| 1 | 08/29/2016 | 09/02/2016 | IP 2515/190 | Inspection of Interim Actions of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1 Flooding Reevaluations | |
| | | | EB2-05XT - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION | | 4 |
| 1 | 08/08/2016 | 08/12/2016 | IP 7111105X | Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial) | |
| 1 | 08/22/2016 | 08/26/2016 | IP 7111105X | Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial) | |
| | | | 71111.08 - INSERVICE INSPECTION RF29 | | 1 |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 7111108G | Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR | |
| | | | RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY | | 2 |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71124.02 | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71151-OR01 | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness | |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71151-PR01 | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences | |
| | | | ISFSI - LOADING INSPECTION (ONE WEEK IN MONTH) | | 1 |
| 1 | 05/01/2017 | 05/30/2017 | IP 60855.1 | Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants | |
| | | | RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY | | 2 |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71124.03 | In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation | |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71151-OR01 | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness | |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71151-PR01 | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences | |
| | | | EP-1 - BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION | | 1 |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111402 | Alert and Notification System Testing | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111403 | Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111404 | Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 7111405 | Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies | |
| | | | EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION | | 1 |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 71151-EP01 | Drill/Exercise Performance | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 71151-EP02 | ERO Readiness | |
| 1 | 06/26/2017 | 06/30/2017 | IP 71151-EP03 | Alert & Notification System Reliability | |
| | | | TSB 52B - BIENNIAL PI&R | | 4 |
| 1 | 07/10/2017 | 07/14/2017 | IP 71152B | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| 1 | 07/24/2017 | 07/28/2017 | IP 71152B | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| | | | BRQ - BRQ INSPECTION | | 3 |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 7111111B | Licensed Operator Requalification Program | |

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Enclosure

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Report 22

Cooper**Inspection / Activity Plan****07/01/2016 - 06/30/2018**

| Unit Number | Planned Dates | | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|---|---------------|------------|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| | Start | End | | | |
| RS 5678 - RS TEAM | | | | | 4 |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.05 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation | |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.06 | Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment | |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.07 | Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program | |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.08 | Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation | |
| EB1-21M - COOPER DESIGN BASES INSPECTION TEAMS | | | | | 6 |
| 1 | 04/09/2018 | 05/11/2018 | IP 7111121M | Component Design Bases Inspection (Teams) | |

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Greg Warnick, Branch Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure:
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Inspection/Activity Plan

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| OFFICE | DRP:C/SPE | DRS: D | DRP: D | DRP:PBC | | |
| NAME | CYoung | AVegel | TPruett | GWarnick | | |
| SIGNATURE | <i>/RA/</i> | <i>/RA/JClark,for</i> | <i>/RA/</i> | <i>/RA/</i> | | |
| DATE | 8/15/16 | 8/17/16 | 8/20/16 | 8/29/16 | | |

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to Mr. Oscar Limpias from Greg Warnick dated August 31, 2016

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(REPORT 05000298/2016005)

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