



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

March 1, 2017

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

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(REPORT 05000298/2016006)**

Dear Mr. Higginbotham:

On February 15, 2017, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its end-of-cycle performance assessment of Cooper Nuclear Station, reviewing performance indicators (PIs), inspection results, and enforcement actions from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 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 concluded that overall performance at your facility preserved public health and safety.

The NRC determined the performance at Cooper Nuclear Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column, the highest performance category of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix, because all inspection findings had very low safety significance (i.e., Green), and all PIs were within the 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 December 31, 2018. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last twelve months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised. 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 the plan for security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

As indicated in our 2016 annual assessment letter (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. 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 (ADAMS Accession No. 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. In January 2017, the NRC was notified of your readiness for reperformance of this inspection. The NRC has scheduled this inspection for the week of June 26, 2017.

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 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).

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 Plan

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION (REPORT
05000298/2016006) - DATED MARCH 1, 2017

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML17059D506

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NAME	GWarnick	AVegel	RLantz						
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA JClark for/	/RA/						
DATE	2/27/17	2/23/17	2/27/17						

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
01/01/2017 - 12/31/2018

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			92723	- IP 92723 FOLLOWUP FOR 2015 SLIV TE VIOS	1
1	06/27/2017	06/30/2017	IP 92723	Follow Up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the S	
			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	
			TSB 52B	- BIENNIAL PI&R	4
1	06/12/2017	06/16/2017	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			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	
			BRQ	- BRQ INSPECTION	3
1	10/02/2017	10/06/2017	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			EB1-21N	- CNS DESIGN BASIS PROGRAMS INSPECTION	3
1	08/14/2017	09/01/2017	IP 7111121N	Component Design Bases Inspection (Programs)	
			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	
			RS 24	- RAD SAFETY	2
1	02/12/2018	02/16/2018	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	02/12/2018	02/16/2018	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	

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

Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
01/01/2017 - 12/31/2018

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
		EXAM	- INITIAL EXAM	4
1	08/13/2018 08/17/2018	X02624	INITIAL EXAM COOPER (12/18)	
1	09/10/2018 09/14/2018	X02624	INITIAL EXAM COOPER (12/18)	
		EB1-21M	- COOPER DESIGN BASES INSPECTION TEAMS	6
1	04/09/2018 04/27/2018	IP 711121M	Component Design Bases Inspection (Teams)	
		EP-1	- EP EXERCISE INSPECTION	4
1	07/30/2018 08/03/2018	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1	07/30/2018 08/03/2018	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	07/30/2018 08/03/2018	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
1	07/30/2018 08/03/2018	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
1	07/30/2018 08/03/2018	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
		EB1-07T	- CNS HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE	2
1	08/20/2018 08/24/2018	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
		7111108	- INSERVICE INSPECTION RF30	1
1	10/08/2018 10/19/2018	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
		RS 12PI	- RAD SAFETY	2
1	10/15/2018 10/19/2018	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	10/15/2018 10/19/2018	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	10/15/2018 10/19/2018	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/15/2018 10/19/2018	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	

Comments:

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