



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064**

December 26, 2000

EA-00-220

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

**SUBJECT: FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR A WHITE FINDING AT
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(NRC Inspection Report No. 50-298/00-16)**

Dear Mr. Swailes:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the final results of our significance determination of the preliminary White finding identified in the subject inspection report. The inspection finding was assessed using the significance determination process and was preliminarily characterized as White (i.e., an issue with low to moderate increased importance to safety, which may require additional NRC inspections). This White finding involved the failure of your formal emergency exercise critique process to identify performance problems related to a risk-significant emergency planning standard. Specifically, the critique process did not identify that offsite dose assessment staff incorrectly characterized the core condition during the simulated release of radioactive material, causing development of inappropriate protective action recommendations for members of the public living near the plant.

In a telephone conversation with Ms. Gail M. Good of NRC, Region IV, on November 9, 2000, Ms. Sharon Mahler of your staff indicated that Nebraska Public Power District did not contest the characterization of the significance of this finding. The District declined the opportunity to discuss this issue in a Regulatory Conference and instead provided a written response to the finding by letter dated December 4, 2000.

After considering the information developed during the inspection and the additional information provided in your letter dated December 4, 2000, the NRC has concluded that the inspection finding is appropriately characterized as White (i.e., an issue with low to moderate increased importance to safety, which may require additional NRC inspections).

You have 10 business days from the date of this letter to appeal the staff's determination of significance for the identified White finding. Such appeals will be considered to have merit if they meet the criteria given in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, Supplement 3.

Because plant performance for this issue has been determined to be in the regulatory response column, we will use the NRC Action Matrix to determine the most appropriate NRC response for this finding. We will notify you by separate correspondence of that determination.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA by Thomas P. Gwynn FOR/

Ellis W. Merschoff
Regional Administrator

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

cc:

G. R. Horn, Senior Vice President
of Energy Supply
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15th Street
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

John R. McPhail, General Counsel
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 499
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

S. R. Mahler, Assistant Nuclear
Licensing and Safety Manager
Nebraska Public Power District
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Dr. William D. Leech
Manager - Nuclear
MidAmerican Energy
907 Walnut Street
P.O. Box 657
Des Moines, Iowa 50303-0657

Ron Stoddard
Lincoln Electric System
1040 O Street
P.O. Box 80869
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-0869

Michael J. Linder, Director
Nebraska Department of Environmental
Quality
P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Chairman
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
Nemaha County Courthouse
1824 N Street
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Cheryl K. Rogers, Program Manager
Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Division of Public Health Assurance
Consumer Services Section
301 Centennial Mall, South
P.O. Box 95007
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Ronald A. Kucera, Director
of Intergovernmental Cooperation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Jerry Uhlmann, Director
State Emergency Management Agency
P.O. Box 116
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Vick L. Cooper, Chief
Radiation Control Program, RCP
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Bureau of Air and Radiation
Forbes Field Building 283
Topeka, Kansas 66620

DISTRIBUTION:

ADAMS (PARS)
 RIDSSECYMAILCENTER
 RIDOOCAMAILCENTER
 RIDSEDOMAILCENTER
 RIDSOEMAILCENTER
 RIDSOGCMAILCENTER
 RIDSNRRD
 RIDSNRRADIP
 RIDSOPAMAIL
 RIDSOIMAILCENTER
 RIDSOIGMAILCENTER
 RIDSOCFOMAILCENTER
 RIDSRGN1MAILCENTER
 RIDSRGN2MAILCENTER
 RIDSRGN3MAILCENTER
 VOrdaz, NRR Enforcement Coordinator

via e-mail:

Sanborn - GFS	Vasquez - GMV
Merschhoff - EWM	Gwynn - TPG
Smith - KDS1	Hackney - CAH
Henderson - BWH	K Brockman
E Collins	A Howell
D Powers	G Good
C Marschall	J Clark, SRI
W Dean, NRR	B Maier
J Luehman, OE	C Nolan, OE

DOCUMENT NAME: S:\RAS\ACES\..\CNS EP SDP\EA-00-220 CNS EP.WPD

ES	D:ACES	C:PSB	D:DRP	D:DRS
M Vasquez*	G Sanborn*	G Good*	K Brockman	A Howell
/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/
12/20/2000	12/21/2000	12/21/2000	12/20/2000	12/22/2000
DRA	RA			
PGwynn	EMerschhoff			
/RA/	/PGwynn- for/			
12/22/2000	12/26/2000			

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

T=Telephone

E=E-mail

F=Fax

*denotes previous concurrence