



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

April 16, 2001

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

**SUBJECT: COOPER NUCLEAR STATION - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
REGARDING A POTENTIAL YELLOW FINDING (EA 00-248)**

Dear Mr. Swailes:

On March 29, 2001, a regulatory conference was conducted in the Region IV office between you, your staff, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff. The participants discussed the risk significance of a potential yellow finding and associated apparent violations, identified at your Cooper Nuclear Station, involving programmatic environmental qualification design, implementation, and documentation deficiencies.

As discussed during the conference, in order for the NRC staff to complete its evaluation, additional information is necessary. The staff has reviewed the information provided in your March 22, 2001, letter as augmented by your presentation during the conference. With that in mind, a response to the enclosed Request for Additional Information is required.

The contents of this request has been discussed with Mr. John McDonald of your staff on April 16, 2001. As discussed at that time, we have established a response time frame of 30 days from the date of this letter. If for any reason this date becomes unreasonable, please contact me at your earliest opportunity.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosures 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 Reading Room).

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

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Charles S. Marschall, Chief  
Project Branch C  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure:  
Request for Additional Information

cc w/enclosure:  
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

Sue Semerena, Section Administrator  
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

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Senior Project Engineer, DRP/C (**DPL**)

Section Chief, DRP/TSS (**PHH**)

RITS Coordinator (**NBH**)

Jim Isom, Pilot Plant Program (**JAI**)

Sampath Malur, Pilot Plant Program (**SKM**)

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# **ENCLOSURE**

## REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### REGARDING THE RISK SIGNIFICANCE OF A POTENTIAL YELLOW FINDING

#### NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

#### COOPER NUCLEAR STATION

#### DOCKET 50-298

#### Division of Reactor Projects, Project Branch C

1. Provide copies of environmental qualification (EQ) records and documentation for the safety-relief valve pilot solenoid valves. Specifically, the profiles to which the solenoids were qualified.
2. Provide the results of a probabilistic risk assessment sensitivity study (risk achievement worth) for the safety-relief valves in the overall plant configuration presented for the EQ issue.
3. Provide copies of all new test reports discussed during the conference and the associated data. Include as a minimum, the safety-relief valve tailpiece pressure switches, the fuses, and the airlock door indicating light.
4. Provide EQ records and documentation for the qualification of motor control centers on the reactor building 903-foot elevation, specifically, the profiles to which these centers were qualified.
5. Provide the controlled drawings and data used for your ground fault analysis and the 125 Vdc fuse/breaker coordination review.
6. Provide the definitions and scope of your category "medium" harsh environment EQ profile.
7. Provide a list of components that are considered to be in a "medium" harsh environment.
8. Provide the results of a sensitivity study evaluating the impact of the assumptions used in "medium" harsh environments.
9. Provide qualification data and records for the Weidmueller terminal blocks in the drywell that were associated with the safety-relief valves.
10. Provide the likelihood and risk impact of distribution system level fuses (20 amp) in the 125 Vdc system opening as a result of the postulated ground faults caused by the unqualified EQ treatments.
11. Provide your assessment of the likelihood that either the Distribution Panel A fuse (100 amp) or the Switchgear 1A fuse (450 amp) would open as a result of the postulated ground faults.