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October 12, 2001
LIC-01-0102

Ms. Gail Good
Chief, Plant Support Branch
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

- References:
1. Docket No. 50-285
 2. Letter from NRC (C. S. Marschall) to OPPD (S. K. Gambhir) dated November 29, 2000 (NRC-00-123)
 3. Letter from OPPD (S. K. Gambhir) to NRC (G. M. Good) dated May 4, 2001 (LIC-01-0039)
 4. Letter from NRC (G. M. Good) to OPPD (S. K. Gambhir) dated June 11, 2001 (NRC-01-059)

SUBJECT: Request to Postpone the Fort Calhoun Station (FCS) Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation / Response to Contingency Events Inspection

This letter requests the postponement of the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) and the Response to Contingency Events (Attachment 3) Inspection from March 25 - 29, 2002, to later in 2002.

In reference 4, the NRC informed the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) that the OSRE / Attachment 3 Inspection for FCS had been rescheduled for March 25 - 29, 2002, per OPPD's request. During a recent telephone conversation between Mr. Ellis Merschoff (NRC) and Mr. Sudesh Gambhir (OPPD), Mr. Gambhir noted that OPPD had decided to move the next refueling outage start date for FCS from September 27, 2002, to May 4, 2002. Moving the refueling outage forward by six months will require a significant expenditure of resources by OPPD and FCS in preparing for the May 2002 refueling outage. OPPD is confident that moving the refueling outage to spring 2002 will improve the reliability and operation of the plant.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, OPPD has been proactive in implementing additional measures to enhance security at FCS. This has resulted in additional demands on the station's organization. FCS continues to develop and implement a new protective strategy (reference 3) and will ensure that it is implemented by March 2002.

Postponing the OSRE / Attachment 3 Inspection would significantly relieve the strain on OPPD's resources. Accordingly, OPPD requests a postponement of the OSRE / Attachment 3 Inspection at Fort Calhoun Station from March 25 - 29, 2002, to the third quarter of 2002 or to at least six months following the resumption of normal operations from the current heightened security level, whichever is later.

OPPD believes the best use of resources by both the NRC and OPPD would be to postpone the OSRE / Attachment 3 Inspection until the new protective strategy is fully implemented at FCS and the heightened security threat has subsided.

FCS is in compliance with 10 CFR 73.55 in its entirety.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. K. Gambhir', written over a horizontal line.

S. K. Gambhir
Division Manager
Nuclear Operations

SKG/EPM/epm

- c: E. W. Merschoff, NRC Regional Administrator, Region IV
A. T. Howell, NRC Director, DRS
A. B. Wang, NRC Project Manager
W. C. Walker, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
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