

February 9, 2006

Mr. R. T. Ridenoure  
Vice President - Chief Nuclear Officer  
Omaha Public Power District  
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.  
Post Office Box 550  
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023-0550

SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION, UNIT 1, REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION RE: RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 2004-02,  
"POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEBRIS BLOCKAGE ON EMERGENCY  
RECIRCULATION DURING DESIGN-BASIS ACCIDENTS AT  
PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTORS" (TAC NO. MC4686)

Dear Mr. Ridenoure:

On September 13, 2004, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," as part of the NRC's efforts to assess the likelihood that the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and containment spray system (CSS) pumps at domestic pressurized water reactors (PWRs) would experience a debris-induced loss of net positive suction head margin during sump recirculation. The NRC issued this GL to all PWR licensees to request that addressees (1) perform a mechanistic evaluation using an NRC-approved methodology of the potential for the adverse effects of post-accident debris blockage and operation with debris-laden fluids to impede or prevent the recirculation functions of the ECCS and CSS following all postulated accidents for which the recirculation of these systems is required, and (2) implement any plant modifications that the above evaluation identifies as being necessary to ensure system functionality. Addressees were also required to submit information specified in GL 2004-02 to the NRC in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Section 50.54(f). Additionally, in the GL, the NRC established a schedule for the submittal of the written responses and the completion of any corrective actions identified while complying with the requests in the GL.

By letter dated March 4, 2005, as supplemented by letters dated August 1 and August 31, 2005, Omaha Public Power District provided a response to the GL. The NRC staff is reviewing and evaluating your response along with the responses from all PWR licensees. The NRC staff has determined that responses to the questions in the enclosure to this letter are necessary in order for the staff to complete its review. Please note that the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's Division of Component Integrity is still conducting its initial reviews with respect to coatings. Although some initial coatings questions are included in the enclosure to this letter, the NRC might issue an additional request for information regarding coatings issues in the near future.

R. T. Ridenoure

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Please provide your response within 60 days from the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1445.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Alan B. Wang, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch IV  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-285

Enclosure:  
Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: see next page

R. T. Ridenoure

-2-

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## **GL 2004-02 RAI Questions**

### **Plant Materials**

1. (Not Applicable).
2. Identify the amounts (i.e., surface area) of the following materials that are:
  - (a) submerged in the containment pool following a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA),
  - (b) in the containment spray zone following a LOCA:
    - aluminum
    - zinc (from galvanized steel and from inorganic zinc coatings)
    - copper
    - carbon steel not coated
    - uncoated concrete

Compare the amounts of these materials in the submerged and spray zones at your plant relative to the scaled amounts of these materials used in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) nuclear industry jointly-sponsored Integrated Chemical Effects Tests (ICET) (e.g., 5x the amount of uncoated carbon steel assumed for the ICETs).

3. Identify the amount (surface area) and material (e.g., aluminum) for any scaffolding stored in containment. Indicate the amount, if any, that would be submerged in the containment pool following a LOCA. Clarify if scaffolding material was included in the response to Question 2.
4. Provide the type and amount of any metallic paints or non-stainless steel insulation jacketing (not included in the response to Question 2) that would be either submerged or subjected to containment spray.

### **Containment Pool Chemistry**

5. Provide the expected containment pool pH during the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) recirculation mission time following a LOCA at the beginning of the fuel cycle and at the end of the fuel cycle. Identify any key assumptions.
6. For the ICET environment that is the most similar to your plant conditions, compare the expected containment pool conditions to the ICET conditions for the following items: boron concentration, buffering agent concentration, and pH. Identify any other significant differences between the ICET environment and the expected plant-specific environment.
7. (Not Applicable).

Enclosure

### **Plant-Specific Chemical Effects**

8. Discuss your overall strategy to evaluate potential chemical effects including demonstrating that, with chemical effects considered, there is sufficient net positive suction head (NPSH) margin available during the ECCS mission time. Provide an estimated date with milestones for the completion of all chemical effects evaluations.
9. Identify, if applicable, any plans to remove certain materials from the containment building and/or to make a change from the existing chemicals that buffer containment pool pH following a LOCA.
10. If bench-top testing is being used to inform plant-specific head loss testing, indicate how the bench-top test parameters (e.g., buffering agent concentrations, pH, materials, etc.) compare to your plant conditions. Describe your plans for addressing uncertainties related to head loss from chemical effects including, but not limited to, use of chemical surrogates, scaling of sample size and test durations. Discuss how it will be determined that allowances made for chemical effects are conservative.

### **Plant Environment Specific**

11. Provide a detailed description of any testing that has been or will be performed as part of a plant-specific chemical effects assessment. Identify the vendor, if applicable, that will be performing the testing. Identify the environment (e.g., borated water at pH 9, deionized water, tap water) and test temperature for any plant-specific head loss or transport tests. Discuss how any differences between these test environments and your plant containment pool conditions could affect the behavior of chemical surrogates. Discuss the criteria that will be used to demonstrate that chemical surrogates produced for testing (e.g., head loss, flume) behave in a similar manner physically and chemically as in the ICET environment and plant containment pool environment.
12. For your plant-specific environment, provide the maximum projected head loss resulting from chemical effects (a) within the first day following a LOCA, and (b) during the entire ECCS recirculation mission time. If the response to this question will be based on testing that is either planned or in progress, provide an estimated date for providing this information to the NRC.

### **ICET 1 and ICET 5 Plants**

13. (Not Applicable).

### **Trisodium Phosphate (TSP) Plants**

14. Given the results from the ICET #3 tests (Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML053040533) and NRC-sponsored head loss tests (Information Notice 2005-26 and Supplement 1), estimate the concentration of dissolved calcium that would exist in your containment pool from all containment sources (e.g., concrete and materials such as calcium silicate, Marinite™,

mineral wool, kaylo) following a large-break loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA) and discuss any ramifications related to the evaluation of chemical effects and downstream effects.

15. (Not Applicable).

16. (Not Applicable).

#### **Additional Chemical Effects Questions**

17. (Not Applicable).

18. (Not Applicable).

19. (Not Applicable).

20. (Not Applicable).

21. (Not Applicable).

22. (Not Applicable).

23. (Not Applicable).

24. (Not Applicable).

#### **Coatings**

##### Generic - All Plants

25. Describe how your coatings assessment was used to identify degraded qualified/acceptable coatings and determine the amount of debris that will result from these coatings. This should include how the assessment technique(s) demonstrates that qualified/acceptable coatings remain in compliance with plant licensing requirements for design-basis accident (DBA) performance. If current examination techniques cannot demonstrate the coatings' ability to meet plant licensing requirements for DBA performance, licensees should describe an augmented testing and inspection program that provides assurance that the qualified/acceptable coatings continue to meet DBA performance requirements. Alternatively, assume all containment coatings fail and describe the potential for this debris to transport to the sump.

##### Plant Specific

26. (Not Applicable).

27. (Not Applicable).

28. (Not Applicable).

29. (Not Applicable).
30. The NRC staff's safety evaluation (SE) addresses two distinct scenarios for formation of a fiber bed on the sump screen surface. For a thin bed case, the SE states that all coatings debris should be treated as particulate and assumes 100% transport to the sump screen. For the case in which no thin bed is formed, the staff's SE states that the coatings debris should be sized based on plant-specific analyses for debris generated from within the ZOI and from outside the ZOI, or that a default chip size equivalent to the area of the sump screen openings should be used (Section 3.4.3.6). Describe how your coatings debris characteristics are modeled to account for your plant-specific fiber bed (i.e. thin bed or no thin bed). If your analysis considers both a thin bed and a non-thin bed case, discuss the coatings debris characteristics assumed for each case. If your analysis deviates from the coatings debris characteristics described in the staff-approved methodology, provide justification to support your assumptions.
31. You indicated that you would be evaluating downstream effects in accordance with WCAP 16406-P. The NRC is currently involved in discussions with the Westinghouse Owner's Group (WOG) to address questions/concerns regarding this WCAP on a generic basis, and some of these discussions may resolve issues related to your particular station. The following issues have the potential for generic resolution; however, if a generic resolution cannot be obtained, plant-specific resolution will be required. As such, formal RAIs will not be issued on these topics at this time, but may be needed in the future. It is expected that your final evaluation response will specifically address those portions of the WCAP used, their applicability, and exceptions taken to the WCAP. For your information, topics under ongoing discussion include:
- ee. Wear rates of pump-wetted materials and the effect of wear on component operation
  - ff. Settling of debris in low flow areas downstream of the strainer or credit for filtering leading to a change in fluid composition
  - gg. Volume of debris injected into the reactor vessel and core region
  - hh. Debris types and properties
  - ii. Contribution of in-vessel velocity profile to the formation of a debris bed or clog
  - jj. Fluid and metal component temperature impact
  - kk. Gravitational and temperature gradients
  - ll. Debris and boron precipitation effects
  - mm. ECCS injection paths
  - nn. Core bypass design features
  - oo. Radiation and chemical considerations
  - pp. Debris adhesion to solid surfaces
  - qq. Thermodynamic properties of coolant
32. Existing calculations have been performed to support crediting containment overpressure in NPSH margin calculations for a one-day period following a LOCA. During the pilot audit review, the staff noted that containment overpressure was cited as a possible source of margin to provide relief against chemical effects, which might cause increasing head loss over a timeframe from days to weeks. The staff also noted

that, in the GL response, a potential license amendment to change the methodology for crediting overpressure was discussed. Will the revised methodology analyze extending overpressure credit beyond the one-day period currently analyzed, to the timeframe of days or weeks over which chemical effects head loss might act?

33. During the pilot audit review, the NRC staff noted a potential nonconservatism in that the refueling cavity drains were not explicitly modeled in the CFD analysis. The staff also observed, during the pilot audit review, that the potential exists that other significant sources of nonuniformity in the spray drainage pattern might exist. Will the CFD calculation be updated to account for refueling cavity drainage and/or any other potentially significant sources of concentrated containment spray or other water drainage into the containment pool?
34. During the pilot audit review, the staff noted that debris settling (i.e., the near-field effect) was credited to support the design basis of the proposed replacement strainers. Please estimate the fraction of debris that settled and describe any analyses (beyond the limited generally qualitative information provided during the pilot audit) that were performed to correlate the scaled flow conditions and any surrogate debris in the test flume with the actual flow conditions and debris types in the plant's containment pool.
35. Are there any vents or other penetrations through the strainer control surfaces which connect the volume internal to the strainer to the containment atmosphere above the containment minimum water level? In this case, dependent upon the containment pool height and strainer and sump geometries, the presence of the vent line or penetration could prevent a water seal over the entire strainer surface from ever forming; or else this seal could be lost once the head loss across the debris bed exceeds a certain criterion, such as the submergence depth of the vent line or penetration. According to Appendix A to Regulatory Guide 1.82, Revision 3, without a water seal across the entire strainer surface, the strainer should not be considered to be "fully submerged." Therefore, if applicable, explain what sump strainer failure criteria are being applied for the "vented sump" scenario described above.
36. The staff noted that the GL response stated that the licensee is evaluating a possible modification to the refueling cavity and reactor cavity drain caps to minimize potential debris blockage. Please confirm whether or not this modification will be performed. In addition, the staff requests that the licensee describe the potential types and characteristics of debris that could reach these drains. In particular, could large pieces of debris be blown into the upper containment by pipe breaks occurring in the lower containment, and subsequently drop into the cavity?
37. What is the minimum strainer submergence during the postulated LOCA? At the time that the re-circulation starts, most of the strainer surface is expected to be clean, and the strainer surface close to the pump suction line may experience higher fluid flow than the rest of the strainer. Has any analysis been done to evaluate the possibility of vortex formation close to the pump suction line and possible air ingestion into the ECCS pumps? In addition, has any analysis or test been performed to evaluate the possible



accumulation of buoyant debris on top of the strainer, which may cause the formation of an air flow path directly through the strainer surface and reduce the effectiveness of the strainer?

38. You submitted its computational fluid dynamics (CFD) calculation performed using a FLOW-3D computer code and the NRC staff reviewed it as part of a pilot plant audit. However, the September 2005 GL response noted that OPPD used a different computer code, Fluent, for CFD analysis. Please identify major changes made to CFD modeling with the computer code change.
39. The September 2005 GL response noted that you are considering testing to determine calcium silicate debris transportability. If the testing is used to design the sump screen, please summarize the basis, results, and conclusions of the testing and how you apply testing for the design.

All other RAIs that were provided previously as part of the pilot audit process need to be answered for completeness.

Ft. Calhoun Station, Unit 1

cc:

Winston & Strawn  
ATTN: James R. Curtiss, Esq.  
1400 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Chairman  
Washington County Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 466  
Blair, NE 68008

Mr. John Hanna, Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P.O. Box 310  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-4005

Ms. Julia Schmitt, Manager  
Radiation Control Program  
Nebraska Health & Human Services R & L  
Public Health Assurance  
301 Centennial Mall, South  
P.O. Box 95007  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5007

Mr. David J. Bannister, Manager  
Fort Calhoun Station  
Omaha Public Power District  
Fort Calhoun Station FC-1-1 Plant  
P.O. Box 550  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0550

Mr. Joe L. McManis  
Manager - Nuclear Licensing  
Omaha Public Power District  
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.  
P.O. Box 550  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023-0550

Mr. Daniel K. McGhee  
Bureau of Radiological Health  
Iowa Department of Public Health  
Lucas State Office Building, 5th Floor  
321 East 12th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319