



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

February 22, 2018

Ms. Mary J. Fisher, Vice President
Energy Production and Nuclear Decommissioning
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station
Mail Stop FC-2-4
9610 Power Lane
Blair, NE 68008

**SUBJECT: FORT CALHOUN STATION - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PLANNED ACTIONS
FOR DESIGN AND LICENSING BASIS RECONSTITUTION PROJECT**

On April 12, 2017, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) closed the open commitments associated with Fort Calhoun Station's Confirmatory Action Letter based on Omaha Public Power District's proposed commitment to complete either one of the following options by December 29, 2017: 1) design and licensing basis reconstitution actions that directly support the spent fuel pool, spent fuel pool cooling, and associated structures, systems and components; or 2) submit a license amendment request for an independent spent fuel cooling system. The NRC Inspection Report 05000285/2017-012 (Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17311A326) documented that you were implementing the design and licensing basis reconstitution efforts in lieu of a license amendment request. This decision was based on your evaluation of activities to support SAFSTOR and the schedule to complete the movement of all spent fuel to the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation by the end of 2020. The commitment to complete the reconstitution efforts was entered into Fort Calhoun Station's corrective action program as Condition Report 2017-00842, and was tracked in Fort Calhoun Station's commitment tracking database under Action Request 66950.

On December 14, 2017, you provided a revised commitment letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML17348A383) requesting the removal of Option 2 above, and requesting a change to the commitment completion date for Option 1 from December 29, 2017 to June 25, 2018. You stated the reason for this decision was that the anticipated completion date for transferring spent fuel to the Independent Spent fuel Storage Installation was by the end of 2020, which made the economics for installing a new spent fuel cooling system unfavorable.

The revised commitment letter also provided information on the specific activities required to complete the design and licensing basis reconstitution. These activities described the specific sections of the Defueled Safety Analysis Report that were being evaluated and analyzed to ensure compliance with NRC requirements. Our continued inspections of the spent fuel pool systems, structures, and components have not identified any safety concerns, and you have demonstrated continued operability and provided reasonable assurance that the systems will provide cooling and makeup water to support spent fuel safety. Therefore, we accept the revised commitment date requested in your December 14, 2017 letter.

We request that a discussion item be added to our bi-weekly calls to provide the status of the actions taken to fulfill your commitment to complete the design and licensing basis reconstitution project by June 25, 2018. If there are any plant modification packages, then those dates and the dates when post-modification testing is expected to occur, should also be provided during our bi-weekly calls. We will continue to review the implementation of your actions captured under Condition Report 2017-00842 during future inspections.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or ADAMS, accessible from the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Ray Kellar, Branch Chief, Fuel Cycle and Decommissioning Branch at 817-200-1191.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark R. Shaffer, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket: 50-285
License: DPR-40

FORT CALHOUN STATION - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PLANNED ACTIONS FOR DESIGN
AND LICENSING BASIS RECONSTITUTION PROJECT DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2018

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