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REPORT SOURCE

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60	61	DOCKET NUMBER					68	69	EVENT DATE					74	75	REPORT DATE					80			

0 2 | During refueling operations, while performing a control rod shuffle, a fuel bundle was

0 3 | removed from the core and then reloaded into the core into the same location. Since

0 4 | all control rods were not inserted, this violated CNS Technical Specification 3.10.A.2.

0 5 | This event had no adverse effects on public health and safety.

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0 8 |

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CAUSE DESCRIPTION AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS (27)

7 8 9 80

FACILITY STATUS % POWER OTHER STATUS (30) METHOD OF DISCOVERY DISCOVERY DESCRIPTION (32)

1 5 H 28 0 0 0 29 NA A 31 Engineer Observation

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 44 45 46 80

PERSONNEL EXPOSURES									
NUMBER			TYPE	DESCRIPTION					
1	7	0	0	0	(37)	Z	(38)	NA	

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PHONE 402-825-3811

NRC USE ONLY

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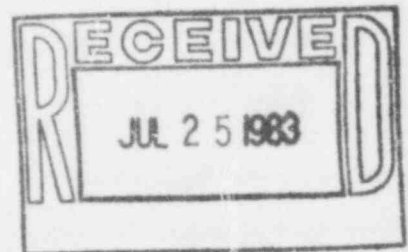
Nebraska Public Power District

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
P.O. BOX 98, BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA 68321
TELEPHONE (402) 825-3811

CNSS830454

July 21, 1983

Mr. John T. Collins, Regional Administrator
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011



Dear Sir:

This report is submitted in accordance with Section 6.5.2.B.2 of the Technical Specifications for Cooper Nuclear Station and discusses a reportable occurrence that was discovered on June 21, 1983. A licensee event report form is also enclosed.

Report No.: 50-203-83-12
Report Date: July 21, 1983
Occurrence Date: June 21, 1983
Facility: Cooper Nuclear Station
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Identification of Occurrence:

A situation developed wherein the limiting condition for operation established in Section 3.10.A.2 of the Technical Specifications was not met.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence:

The reactor was in cold shutdown for refueling.

Description of Occurrence:

During the process of reloading fuel, abnormal difficulty was experienced in setting one of the fuel support pieces in the core. In order to lower a TV camera into the core and observe whether any physical obstruction was preventing installation of the fuel support piece, one adjacent fuel bundle was removed from the core. Subsequent to successfully installing the fuel support piece, the fuel bundle was relocated into its original position in the core as it was prior to experiencing difficulty with the adjacent fuel support piece. Loading the bundle back into the core at this point conflicted with Cooper Nuclear Station Technical Specification 3.10.A.2 which requires all control rods to be inserted in the core for loading fuel into the core.

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Designation of Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

The licensed senior reactor operators and reactor engineering representative failed to clearly understand the Technical Specifications in that although the fuel movement sequence could be altered to permit removal of fuel already installed in the core, it was not permissible to reload this fuel back into the core unless all control rods were inserted.

Analysis of Occurrence:

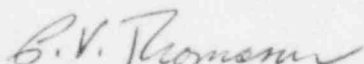
The refueling procedure required some new control rods to be installed into the core, certain control rods to be removed, and other control rod locations to be shuffled within the core. Generally, this was accomplished by removing the irradiated fuel from the subject fuel cells, shuffling and replacing control rods as applicable, inserting all control rods and then finally loading these fuel cells with fuel. During this particular fuel loading sequence, one of the fuel support pieces could not be positioned in the core. In order to conduct an underwater inspection using a TV camera, a change was made to the fuel movement data sheet to remove, and later reinstall, a fuel bundle in an adjacent fuel cell. This change was approved by a senior licensed operator and a reactor engineering representative. After the fuel support piece was installed, the fuel bundle previously removed was reinstalled in accordance with the changed fuel movement data sheet. The performance of this fuel movement into the core prior to the insertion of all withdrawn control rods conflicted with the Technical Specification requirement that, "Fuel shall not be loaded into the reactor core unless all control rods are fully inserted . . . ". Prior to the removal of the fuel bundle in the adjacent fuel cell, the established pattern of control rods and fuel bundles had demonstrated a subcritical reactivity margin. Removal and reinstallation of the fuel bundle in the proper location did not change this established subcritical reactivity margin.

This occurrence presented no adverse consequences to public health and safety.

Corrective Action:

This occurrence was discussed at length with the refueling floor supervisor and the reactor engineering representative in order to prevent recurrence of this event. Procedures have been reviewed by reactor engineers and found to be adequate when implemented correctly. Additional training has been scheduled on Technical Specification requirements for Operations personnel. This report will be routed to all licensed operators and discussed with all crews by the Operations Supervisor.

Sincerely,



P. V. Thomason
Division Manager of
Nuclear Operations
Cooper Nuclear Station

PVT:KRW:lb
Attach.