



Nebraska Public Power District

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NSD920115
February 8, 1992

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: Notification of 250 Volt Battery System Inoperability
Cooper Nuclear Station
NRC Docket No. 50-298, License No. DPR-46

In accordance with Specification 3.9.B.1.c of the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) Technical Specifications and 10 CFR 50.4(b)(1), Nebraska Public Power District (District) is notifying the NRC of an inoperable 250 volt battery system. This specification requires, when one of the two 250 volt battery systems becomes inoperable, that the NRC be notified within 24 hours of the situation, the precautions be taken during the period of inoperability and the plans to return the battery system to an operable state.

Condition Requiring the Notification

At 1320 on February 7, 1992, following discussions with NRC Headquarters and Region IV personnel, 250 Volt Battery System A was declared inoperable. One of the 120 individual battery cells of this battery system failed to meet the acceptance criteria of Surveillance Requirement 4.9.A.4.b.2, which states:

"For each connected cell, the voltage is 2.15V minimum and specific gravity is 1.190 minimum, corrected for 77°F and electrolyte level. The average specific gravity of all connected cells will be a minimum of 1.200."

Cell number 110 of battery system A indicated an individual cell voltage less than 2.15 volts. All other cells of both battery systems meet or exceed the above acceptance criteria of the Technical Specification surveillance requirement.

Precautions Taken While Battery System A Is Inoperable

The following precautions have been implemented:

1. An engineering analysis has been performed which verifies that, with the low individual cell voltage condition on cell 110, 250 Volt Battery System A is still capable of supplying all safety related loads normally energized on its bus.

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2. The surveillance requirements of Technical Specification 4.9.A.4.a for the 250 Volt Battery System B will be monitored daily to verify its operability.
3. The nuclear safety systems and engineered safety features supplied by the 250 Volt Battery System B will remain operable.

Plans to Return the Battery System A to an Operable State

The District plans to return the 250 Volt Battery System A to an operable condition at the earliest opportunity within the time constraints allowed by the LCO. The District intends to either jumper or replace cell 110 with a new cell which meets all Technical Specification requirements. A replacement battery cell is currently being charged and tested in preparation for service. Maintenance instructions are being prepared to safely perform the required corrective actions.


The District is aware that procedures have been developed to allow replacement of cells during normal plant operation. If the District can adapt these procedures such that nuclear and electrical safety considerations are maintained, the cell will be replaced during normal operation. If not, the plant will be brought to a cold shutdown condition to perform this maintenance activity.

Per our discussions on February 7, 1992, the District will review the 250 Volt Battery System requirements contained in the CNS Technical Specifications for revision as appropriate.

By copy of this letter and attachment the NRC Region IV Office and the CNS Resident Inspector are also being notified in accordance with 10 CFR 50.4 (b)(1).

Should you have any questions or require any additional information regarding this submittal, please contact me.

Sincerely,



G. R. Horn

Nuclear Power Group Manager

GRH/MAD

cc: NRC Regional Administrator
Region IV
Arlington, TX

NRC Resident Inspector
Cooper Nuclear Station