



Nebraska Public Power District

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
P.O. BOX 98, BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA 68321
TELEPHONE (402)825-3811
FAX (402)825-5205

NLS960236
December 12, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

Subject: Reply to a Notice of Violation
NRC Inspection Report No. 50-298/96-23
Cooper Nuclear Station, NRC Docket 50-298, DPR-46

Reference: 1. Letter to G. R. Horn (NPPD) from J. E. Dyer (USNRC) dated November 12, 1996, "NRC Inspection Report 50/298/96-23 and Notice of Violation"

By letter dated November 12, 1996, (Reference 1), the NRC cited Nebraska Public Power District (District) as being in violation of NRC requirements. This letter, including Attachment 1, constitutes the District's reply to the referenced Notice of Violation in accordance with 10 CFR 2.201. The District admits to the violation and has completed all corrective actions necessary to return CNS to full compliance.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

P. D. Graham
Vice President - Nuclear

/erm
Attachment

cc: Regional Administrator
USNRC - Region IV

Senior Project Manager
USNRC - NRR Project Directorate IV-1

Senior Resident Inspector
USNRC

NPG Distribution

9612170356 961212
PDR ADOCK 05000298
G PDR

JEOL
11

REPLY TO NOVEMBER 12, 1996, NOTICE OF VIOLATION
COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
NRC DOCKET NO. 50-298, LICENSE DPR-46

During NRC inspection activities conducted from September 8, 1996, through October 19, 1996, one violation of NRC requirements was identified. The particular violation and the District's reply are set forth below:

Violation

10 CFR Part 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," as described in 10 CFR 50.65(a)(2) states, in part, that monitoring under (a)(1) is not required where it has been demonstrated that the performance or condition of a structure, system or component has been effectively controlled through the performance of appropriate preventive maintenance of the structure, system, or component and that the structure, system or component remains capable of performing its intended function.

Regulatory Guide 1.160, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," Revision 1, January 1995, endorses NUMARC 93-01, "Industry Guidelines for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," as an acceptable method for implementing the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65. Regulatory Guide 1.160 states that the methods described in the guide will be used in the evaluation of the effectiveness of maintenance activities by licensees who are required to comply with 10 CFR 50.65 unless a licensee has proposed an acceptable alternative method for compliance. The licensee subscribed to the NUMARC 93-01 methodology in Administrative Procedure 0.27, "Maintenance Rule Program," Revision 1, Section 2.2, which stated, in part, this procedure provides guideline methodology to ensure compliance with 10 CFR 50.65 criteria by incorporating NUMARC 93-01.

NUMARC 93-01, Section 9.3.2, states, in part, that performance criteria for risk significant structures, systems, and components should be established to assure reliability and availability assumptions used in the plant-specific probabilistic risk assessment, individual plant examination, or other risk determining analysis are maintained or adjusted when necessary.

Procedure 0.27, Step 4.11, states, in part, that the Operations department is responsible for recognizing the impact on the Maintenance Rule Program with regard to risk significance and unavailability when taking equipment out of service, recording out-of-service time, and recording return-to-service time.

Contrary to the above:

On October 2, 1996, while performing Surveillance Procedure 6.1ADS303, "ADS Logic Functional Test (Div 1)," Revision 1, the control room crew placed both Trains A and B of the automatic depressurization system in the inhibit positions but recorded only Train A out-of-service and return-to-service times for unavailability evaluation with respect to the Maintenance Rule.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement 1) (298/96023-01).

Admission or Denial to Violation

The District admits the violation.

Reason for Violation

As detailed below, this violation is a result of a weakness associated with the application of Allowed Out-of-Service Times (AOTs) for accumulating unavailability for risk significant functions under the CNS Maintenance Rule Program.

Allowed Out-of-Service Times are used within the CNS Surveillance Testing Program to address operability of equipment required by the CNS Technical Specifications during testing. They are based on reasonable out-of-service times required to perform the testing and focus on the out-of-service time of the affected system as opposed to individual components or steps within the procedure. Accordingly, the AOT logs do not require documentation of all components made unavailable within an existing AOT window. While this approach is adequate to satisfy the requirements of the Surveillance Testing Program, it does not fully satisfy the requirements for accumulating unavailability under the Maintenance Rule Program.

A contributing factor to this violation is the ambiguity of Procedure 0.27, "Maintenance Rule Program," relative to the program requirements for accumulating unavailability for risk significant functions.

Corrective Steps Taken and the Results Achieved

Each surveillance procedure that affects the operability of equipment controlled by the CNS Technical Specifications has an associated AOT tracking sheet (or log). Accordingly, the AOT tracking sheets for both Surveillance Procedures 6.1ADS.303, "ADS Logic Functional Test (Div 1)," and 6.2ADS.303, "ADS Logic Functional Test (Div 2)," have been modified to reflect the fact that both Train A and Train B of the automatic depressurization system (ADS) are rendered unavailable during performance of these procedures.

In addition, the unavailability accumulated for ADS Trains A and B have been adjusted to account for the error. (While the second train was inhibited only 6 seconds per surveillance on the average, the full unavailability recorded since January 1996 for Train A as a result of Procedure 6.1ADS.303 has been conservatively added to the unavailability accumulated for Train B and vice versa for Procedure 6.2ADS.303.) This did not result in either of the trains approaching their unavailability performance criteria limits.

Corrective Steps That Will Be Taken to Avoid Further Violations

Other surveillance procedures monitored under the AOT program will be reviewed to ensure that the requirements of the Maintenance Rule Program are being met with respect to the accumulation of unavailability for risk significant functions. This review will be completed by January 24, 1997. To minimize the potential for a repeat violation prior to the completion of this review, appropriate operations personnel have been sensitized to this issue. Further, Procedure 0.27, "Maintenance Rule Program," will be revised to clarify the program requirements for accumulating unavailability for risk significant functions. This revision will be implemented by February 7, 1997.

Date When Full Compliance Will Be Achieved

The District has completed all corrective actions necessary to return CNS to full compliance with respect to the identified violation.

Correspondence No: NLS960236

The following table identifies those actions committed to by the District in this document. Any other actions discussed in the submittal represent intended or planned actions by the District. They are described to the NRC for the NRC's information and are not regulatory commitments. Please notify the Licensing Manager at Cooper Nuclear Station of any questions regarding this document or any associated regulatory commitments.

COMMITMENT	COMMITTED DATE OR OUTAGE
Other surveillance procedures monitored under the AOT program will be reviewed to ensure that the requirements of the Maintenance Rule Program are being met with respect to the accumulation of unavailability for risk significant functions.	January 24, 1997
Procedure 0.27, "Maintenance Rule Program," will be revised to clarify the program requirements for accumulating unavailability for risk significant functions.	February 7, 1997