



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

DEC 26 1996

G. R. Horn, Senior Vice President
of Energy Supply
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15th Street
Columbus, Nebraska 68601

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-298/96-26 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Horn:

On November 30, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Cooper Nuclear Station facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

This report documents an NRC-identified violation of NRC requirements in that your staff failed to properly implement a Technical Specification surveillance requirement to evaluate the potential for common cause failure of the emergency diesel generators. The process for performing these evaluations was not documented and was not clear to your staff. Subsequent evaluations demonstrated that for the two examples of the violation, neither resulted in the redundant diesel being inoperable. However, a weak common cause evaluation process could result in failure to identify a common mode vulnerability concerning diesel generator failure, a situation with considerable safety significance.

Also, this report documents three instances where deficient maintenance work packages were submitted to the control room to be released for work. In two of these instances, control room operators identified the deficiencies and returned the work packages for correction. In the third instance, control room operators did not identify the deficiency and only NRC inspector questioning prevented a prohibited system lineup. These occurrences show that control room operators are being challenged by the poor quality of maintenance work packages. Your attention in this area is warranted.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. E. Dyer", is written above the typed name.

J. E. Dyer, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-298
License No.: DPR-46

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-298/96-26

cc w/enclosures:

John R. McPhail, General Counsel
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Randolph Wood, Director
Nebraska Department of Environmental
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Chairman
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners
Nemaha County Courthouse
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Cheryl Rogers, LLRW Program Manager
Environmental Protection Section
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Dr. Mark B. Horton, M.S.P.H.
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R. A. Kucera, Department Director
of Intergovernmental Cooperation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Kansas Radiation Control Program Director

DEC 26 1996

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
E-Mail report to Ronald Frahm, Jr. (RKF)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan

DRP Director

Branch Chief (DRP/C)

Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

Project Engineer (DRP/C)

Resident Inspector

DRS-PSB

MIS System

RIV File

Leah Tremper ,OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)

DOCUMENT NAME: R:_CNS\CN626RP.MHM

To receive copy of document, indicate in box: "C" = Copy without enclosures "E" = Copy with enclosures "N" = No copy

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MH Miller	EE Collins	JEDyer					
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