



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

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

DEC 24 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-298/96-23

Dear Mr. Horn:

Thank you for your letter of December 16, 1996, in response to our letter and Notice of Violation dated November 12, 1996. We have reviewed your reply and find it responsive to the concerns raised in our Notice of Violation. We will review the implementation of your corrective actions during a future inspection to determine that full compliance has been achieved and will be maintained.

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

cc:  
John R. McPhail, General Counsel  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 499  
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499

P. D. Graham, Vice President of  
Nuclear Energy  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

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PDR ADOCK 05000298  
G PDR

B. L. Houston, Nuclear Licensing  
and Safety Manager  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 98  
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

R. J. Singer, Manager-Nuclear  
Midwest Power  
907 Walnut Street  
P.O. Box 657  
Des Moines, Iowa 50303

Mr. Ron Stoddard  
Lincoln Electric System  
11th and O Streets  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Randolph Wood, Director  
Nebraska Department of Environmental  
Quality  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8922

Chairman  
Nemaha County Board of Commissioners  
Nemaha County Courthouse  
1824 N Street  
Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Cheryl Rogers, LLRW Program Manager  
Environmental Protection Section  
Nebraska Department of Health  
301 Centennial Mall, South  
P.O. Box 95007  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

Dr. Mark B. Horton, M.S.P.H.  
Director  
Nebraska Department of Health  
P.O. Box 950070  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5007

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 24 1996

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




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RIV File

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

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DEC 24 1996

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan

DRP Director

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RIV File

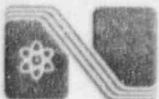
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## Nebraska Public Power District

COOPER NUCLEAR STATION  
P.O. BOX 98, BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA 68321  
TELEPHONE (402)825-3811  
FAX (402)825-3205

NLS960236

December 12, 1996

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

DEC 16 1996

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

/crm

Attachment

cc: Regional Administrator  
USNRC - Region IV

Senior Project Manager  
USNRC - NRR Project Directorate IV-1

Senior Resident Inspector  
USNRC

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Powerful Pride in Nebraska

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