



50-298

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 17, 1996

Mr. G. R. Horn
Sr. Vice President of Energy Supply
Nebraska Public Power District
1414 15 Street
Columbus, NE 68601

SUBJECT: REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97 - BOILING WATER REACTOR NEUTRON FLUX
MONITORING - COOPER NUCLEAR STATION (TAC NO. M51082)

Dear Mr. Horn:

Section 6.2 of NRC Generic Letter 82-33 requested applicants and licensees to provide a report on their implementation of Regulatory Guide 1.97, "Instrumentation for Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants to Assess Plant and Environs Conditions During and Following an Accident." The Boiling Water Reactors Owners' Group responded by submitting NEDO-31558, "Position on NRC Regulatory Guide 1.97, Revision 3, Requirements for Post-Accident Neutron Monitoring System," which proposed alternative criteria for neutron flux monitoring instrumentation in lieu of the Category 1 criteria stated in the regulatory guide. In a safety evaluation dated January 13, 1993, the staff concluded that the criteria of NEDO-31558 were acceptable.

By letter dated April 4, 1993, the staff requested you to review the Cooper Nuclear Station neutron flux monitoring instrumentation against the criteria of NEDO-31558 and to document the results of your review. Your letter of June 7, 1993, provided those results, including your justifications for certain deviations and your commitments for future actions. The staff issued a letter dated March 21, 1994, which accepted the deviations concerning instrumentation accuracy and your commitments concerning equipment qualification, function time and power source. By letter dated December 4, 1995, you indicated your intention to defer your power source commitment (the planned modification to provide the APRMs and LPRMs with uninterruptable power sources) until the Spring 1997 refueling outage. However, by letter dated September 13, 1996, you retracted that previous commitment and provided justification for the continued use of the existing neutron flux monitoring system power source.

The staff has completed its review and determined that the power source deviation from NEDO-31558 identified in your September 13, 1996, submittal is acceptable. Therefore, the post-accident neutron flux monitoring instrumentation at the Cooper Nuclear Station is an acceptable alternative to the guidance in Regulatory Guide 1.97.

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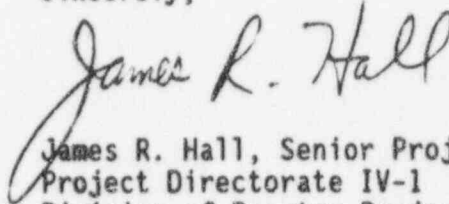
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Mr. G. R. Horn

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at
(301) 415-1336.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Hall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

James R. Hall, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-298

cc: See next page

Mr. G. R. Horn
Nebraska Public Power Company

Cooper Nuclear Station

cc:

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Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. G. R. Horn

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-1336.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

James R. Hall, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

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