



# Nebraska Public Power District

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

NLS960198

November 27, 1996

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

Subject: Inspection of Core Spray Spargers and Piping  
Cooper Nuclear Station, NRC Docket 50-298, DPR-46

- References:
1. IE Bulletin 80-13, Visual Inspection of Core Spray Spargers
  2. EPRI Report TR-106740 dated July 1996, "BWR Vessel and Internal Project, Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-18)"
  3. Letter to C. E. Carpenter (USNRC) from J. T. Beckham, Jr. (BWRVIP Chairman) dated July 26, 1996
  4. Letter to NRC Document Control Desk from J. H. Mueller (NPPD) dated November 22, 1995, "IE Bulletin 80-13 Response; Visual Inspection of Core Spray Spargers"
  5. Letter to G. R. Horn (NPPD) from J. R. Hail (USNRC) dated December 21, 1995, "Cooper Nuclear Station - Evaluation of Core Spray Piping Indications (TAC No. M94097)"

Gentlemen:

Cooper Nuclear Station has been performing augmented examinations of the Core Spray System piping and spargers inside the reactor vessel since 1980, in accordance with the requirements of NRC Bulletin 80-13 (Reference 1). The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Nebraska Public Power District (the District) is revising our previous commitment (References 4 & 5) and will follow the guidance in BWRVIP-18 (Reference 2) for future examinations of the Core Spray spargers and associated piping.

IE Bulletin 80-13 requires visual examinations of 100% of the accessible Core Spray spargers and associated piping using 0.001" resolution. The Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) developed a comprehensive guideline for the inspection and evaluation of the spargers and associated piping based on industry experience gained since 1980. This guidance document, BWRVIP-18, was submitted to the NRC for review under separate cover (Reference 3). BWRVIP-18 requires visual examinations to be performed at 0.0005" resolution,

9612060227 961127  
PLR ADOCK 03000298  
Q PDR

ADD: NRC/DE 1/1  
RES/DSIR 1/1

IE10/1

Powerful Pride in Nebraska

November 27, 1996

Page 2 of 2

allows the use of ultrasonic examination techniques for pipe welds, focuses attention on the areas which have shown susceptibility to cracking (i.e. creviced welds), and relaxes the examination frequency for areas not found to be susceptible to cracking (i.e. piping base metal). The results of the inspections will be included in the Inservice Inspection Summary Report which is submitted after the completion of the outage. Indications that exceed the allowable flaw sizes will be repaired or evaluated for continued operation. All evaluations will be submitted to the NRC for approval prior to restart.

The District will implement the BWRVIP-18 inspection guidelines during the 1997 refueling outage (RFO-17). If you have any questions on the District's augmented inspection program for future examinations of the Core Spray spargers and associated piping, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



P. D. Graham

Vice President - Nuclear

/dnm

cc: Regional Administrator  
USNRC - Region IV

Senior Project Manager  
USNRC - NRR Project Directorate IV-1

Senior Resident Inspector  
USNRC

NPG Distribution

Correspondence No: NLS960198

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.

[illegible]