



UNITED STATES
CLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 14, 1985

*PR
Ltr
Nebraska PDR*

Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has cited Nebraska Public Power District of Columbus, Nebraska, for several alleged violations of NRC regulations at their Cooper Nuclear Station and proposed to fine them \$25,000.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, February 14, 1985.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Sen. Exon
Sen. Zorinsky
Rep. Bereuter

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SURNAME	COMBS: VAS						
DATE	2/14/85						



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

No. 85-22
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, February 14, 1985)

NRC STAFF CITES NEBRASKA PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT; PROPOSES \$25,000 FINE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has cited Nebraska Public Power District of Columbus, Nebraska, for several alleged violations of NRC regulations at their Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville, Nebraska, and proposes to fine them \$25,000. The alleged violations were identified during an NRC inspection performed in November 1984.

The alleged violations resulting in the proposed penalty were caused by the failure to conduct surveillance tests for the unit batteries in a manner that demonstrated the system would operate as required by technical specifications. Unit batteries are sets of storage batteries that provide power to vital instrumentation in the event all other power sources become inoperable. In a letter to NPPD, Robert D. Martin, Regional Administrator, said "...The failure to demonstrate operability of the battery system which could be needed under certain emergency conditions...brings into question the technical adequacy of the surveillance test program at Cooper Nuclear Station." Testing was conducted by NPPD, but the testing was not technically sufficient. NPPD subsequently performed tests of the unit batteries in accordance with NRC requirements and satisfactorily demonstrated that the battery system would function properly. Mr. Martin also noted that a total penalty of \$50,000 could have been assessed for the combined penalties, but NRC enforcement policy allows recognition of prior good performance permitting a 50 percent reduction of the penalty.

After the NRC met with NPPD management in November, Mr. Martin said he was encouraged by the utility's response to the NRC staff concerns and he believed that the remedial measures now underway could correct the deficiencies. NPPD must respond to the NRC proposed penalty within 30 days.

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