UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

September 1, 2015

Mr. Oscar A. Limpias
Vice President-Nuclear
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station
72676 648A Avenue
Brownville, NE 68321

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION (REPORT 05000298/2015005)

Dear Mr. Limpias:

On August 13, 2015, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of the Cooper Nuclear Station. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, the Cooper Nuclear Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at the Cooper Nuclear Station during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2017. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the second half of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance

and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. This audit includes an onsite component in order for the NRC to evaluate licensee plans for complying with the Orders, as described in site-specific submittals, and to receive and review information relative to associated open items. This onsite activity will occur in the months prior to a declaration of compliance for the first unit at each site, and will aid staff in development of an ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. The date for the onsite component at your site is being coordinated with your staff. A site-specific audit plan for the visit will be provided in advance to allow sufficient time for preparations.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (817) 200-1144 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Greg Warnick, Branch Chief
Project Branch C
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure:
Cooper Nuclear Station Inspection/Activity Plan

Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			EXAM	**- INITIAL OPERATOR EXAM**	**4**
1	10/26/2015	10/30/2015	X02547	INITIAL EXAM CNS (12/2015)	
1	11/30/2015	12/04/2015	X02547	INITIAL EXAM CNS (12/2015)	
			BRQ	**- BIENNIAL REQUAL INSPECTION**	**3**
1	08/10/2015	12/31/2015	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			RS 5678	**- RADIATION SAFETY - TEAM**	**4**
1	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
1	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	08/24/2015	08/28/2015	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			ISFSI	**- ROUTINE ISFSI INSPECTION (ONE WEEK)**	**1**
1	11/01/2015	11/30/2015	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
			EP-1	**- BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION**	**1**
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
			EP-2	**- EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**	**1**
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
			EXAM	**- INITIAL EXAM**	**5**
1	02/06/2016	02/10/2017	X02587	INITIAL EXAM CNS (03/2017)	
1	03/06/2016	03/17/2017	X02587	INITIAL EXAM CNS (03/2017)	
			RS 24	**- RADIATION SAFETY**	**2**
1	03/21/2016	03/25/2016	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	03/21/2016	03/25/2016	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			EB1-17T	**- CNS PERM PLANT MODS & 50.59 INSPECTION**	**3**
1	04/03/2016	04/22/2016	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			EP-2	**- EXERCISE INSPECTION**	**4**
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
			EP-3	**- EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**	**2**
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
07/01/2015 - 06/30/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
			EP-3	**- EP PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**	2
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
1	06/13/2016	06/17/2016	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	
			EB2-05XT	**- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION**	4
1	08/08/2016	08/12/2016	IP 7111105X	Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial)	
1	08/22/2016	08/26/2016	IP 7111105X	Fire Protection - NFPA 805 (Triennial)	
			71111.08	**- INSERVICE INSPECTION RF29**	1
1	10/03/2016	10/07/2016	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
			RS 13 PI	**- RADIATION SAFETY**	2
1	10/17/2016	10/21/2016	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	10/17/2016	10/21/2016	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	10/17/2016	10/21/2016	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	10/17/2016	10/21/2016	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences	
			RS 12 PI	**- RADIATION SAFETY**	3
1	05/22/2017	05/26/2017	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	05/22/2017	05/26/2017	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
1	05/22/2017	05/26/2017	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	05/22/2017	05/26/2017	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences	
			EP-1	**- BIENNIAL EP PROGRAM INSPECTION**	1
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes	
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
			EP-2	**- EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION**	1
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Readiness	
1	06/26/2017	06/30/2017	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System Reliability	

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