



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION IV
1600 E. LAMAR BLVD.
ARLINGTON, TX 76011-4511

March 2, 2016

Mr. Oscar A. Limpias
Vice President-Nuclear and CNO
Nebraska Public Power District
Cooper Nuclear Station
72676 648A Avenue
P.O. Box 98
Brownville, NE 68321

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(REPORT 05000298/2015006)**

Dear Mr. Limpias:

On February 17, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its end-of-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 January 1, 2015 through December 31, 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 (Column 1) 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 December 31, 2017. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-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.

Additionally, the NRC plans to complete Temporary Instruction 190, "Inspection of Licensee's Proposed Interim Actions as a Result of the Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.1 Flooding Evaluation." We will coordinate with your staff to schedule this inspection in 2016. 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." This Order 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." This Order 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. Following the audit, and after the NRC staff receives the Final Compliance letter for the site, the Final Safety Evaluation will be issued. Then, the NRC staff will confirm through inspections the full implementation of the orders mentioned above by performing Temporary Instruction 191, "Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans."

From January 1 to December 31, 2015, the NRC issued three Severity Level IV traditional enforcement violations associated with impeding the regulatory process. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct Inspection Procedure 92723, "Follow up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period," to assess your evaluation of these violations and review the adequacy of associated corrective actions.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS).

O. Limpias

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ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site 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,

/RA/

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

O. Limpias

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ADAMS ACCESSION NUMBER: ML16061A312

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|---|---|---|---|--------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUNSI Review By: CHY | ADAMS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Sensitive | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Publicly Available <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly Available | Keyword NRC-002 |
| OFFICE | BC:DRP/C | D:DRS | D:DRP | |
| NAME | GWarnick | AVegel | TPruett | |
| SIGNATURE | /RA/ | /RA/ | /RA/RLantz, for | |
| DATE | 2/29/16 | 2/29/16 | 2/26/16 | |

OFFICIAL RECORD DOCUMENT

Letter to Oscar Limpias from Greg Warnick, dated March 2, 2016

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR COOPER NUCLEAR STATION
(REPORT 05000298/2015006)

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Cooper
Inspection / Activity Plan
04/01/2016 - 12/31/2017

| Unit Number | Planned Dates | | Inspection Activity | Title | No. of Staff on Site |
|-------------|---------------|------------|---|--|----------------------|
| | Start | End | | | |
| | | | EB1-17T - CNS PERM PLANT MODS & 50.59 INSPECTION | | 6 |
| 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 | |
| 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 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY | | 2 |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71124.02 | Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls | |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71151-OR01 | Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness | |
| 1 | 10/03/2016 | 10/07/2016 | IP 71151-PR01 | RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent Occurrences | |
| | | | ISFSI - LOADING INSPECTION (ONE WEEK IN MONTH) | | 1 |
| 1 | 05/01/2017 | 05/30/2017 | IP 60855.1 | Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants | |
| | | | RS 12 PI - RADIATION SAFETY | | 2 |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71124.01 | Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls | |
| 1 | 05/22/2017 | 05/26/2017 | IP 71124.03 | In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation | |
| 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 | |

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

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Inspection / Activity Plan
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|---|---------------|------------|---------------------|---|----------------------|
| | Start | End | | | |
| EP-2 - EP PERFORMANCE INDICATOR VERIFICATION | | | | | 1 |
| 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 | |
| TSB 52B - BIENNIAL PI&R | | | | | 4 |
| 1 | 07/10/2017 | 07/14/2017 | IP 71152B | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| 1 | 07/24/2017 | 07/28/2017 | IP 71152B | Problem Identification and Resolution | |
| BRQ - BRQ INSPECTION | | | | | 2 |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 7111111B | Licensed Operator Requalification Program | |
| RS 5678 - RS TEAM | | | | | 4 |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.05 | Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation | |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.06 | Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment | |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.07 | Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program | |
| 1 | 10/02/2017 | 10/06/2017 | IP 71124.08 | Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation | |

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