



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
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May 18, 2000

S. K. Gambhir, Division Manager
Nuclear Operations
Omaha Public Power District
Fort Calhoun Station FC-2-4 Adm.
P.O. Box 399
Hwy. 75 - North of Fort Calhoun
Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023-0399

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - FORT CALHOUN STATION

Dear Mr. Gambhir:

On May 3, 2000, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Fort Calhoun Station. The end-of-cycle review for Fort Calhoun Station involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period May 30, 1999, to April 1, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment on your safety performance during this period.

Overall, Fort Calhoun Station operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety. Fort Calhoun Station fully met all cornerstone objectives. Based on the end-of-cycle review results, the performance indicators for the cornerstones were in the licensee response column throughout the assessment cycle with the following exceptions:

- Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness PI crossed the green-to-white threshold and is currently white. This indicated a level of licensee performance that warrants an increased regulatory response. As a result, we plan to conduct additional supplemental inspections to better understand the causes contributing to your decline in performance. Our Inspection/Activity Plan indicates our intent to conduct an inspection of your radiological control programs beginning on May 30, 2000. We intend to use Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection For One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area."
- Emergency Preparedness Drill/Exercise Performance PI changed from green to white on two occasions in monthly pilot program submittals because less than 90 percent of drills, exercises, and actual opportunities were performed in a timely and accurately manner. We have conducted supplemental inspections as discussed in our letters dated July 26 and December 27, 1999, and we are satisfied with your review and proposed corrective actions. We also noted that when calculated on a quarterly basis the PI would not have transitioned from green to white.

NRC inspections and licensee self-assessments did not identify any additional findings that were other than green (very low safety significance) in any of the cornerstones.

The enclosed inspection plan details the scheduled inspections during the period from April 2, 2000, to March 31, 2001. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed based on their ongoing and continuous nature. The last 6 months of the inspection plans are tentative and will be revised at the midcycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link at the NRC homepage, <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. More detailed information that provides the basis for this assessment is available at the following NRC website: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>

If circumstances arise that cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Charles S. Marschall at 817-860-8185 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/ by Elmo E. Collins for

Ken E. Brockman, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-285
Licensee No. DPR-40

Enclosure:
Fort Calhoun Station Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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Omaha Public Power District

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