



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC CITES COOPER NUCLEAR STATION FOR INSPECTION FINDING OF LOW TO MODERATE SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE

Cooper Nuclear Station will receive additional oversight from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission because of problems with procedures needed to safely shutdown the plant in the event of some fires. The plant, which is operated by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), is located 23 miles south of Nebraska City, Neb.

NRC inspectors reported that the licensee's procedures to manually operate valves that are part of the high pressure coolant injection system would not prove effective in the event of a fire. The system is an independent emergency cooling system that is one of the means available to provide water to cool the reactor during certain loss of coolant accidents.

"Fire protection programs are a critical component in plant safety and the NRC is paying special attention to ensure the licensee takes actions to fully correct this issue," Region IV Administrator Elmo E. Collins said.

The NRC uses a color-coded system to categorize inspection findings. They range from "green," for an issue of very low safety significance, to "red" for a highly significant safety issue. In this case, the violation has been determined to be "white," indicating the issue is of low to moderate safety significance. The finding is based on an NRC inspection completed on March 14.

NRC held a regulatory conference at its Region IV office in Arlington, Texas, on April 27, and based its final significance determination, in part, on information presented there. The NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection at a future date to evaluate the company's corrective actions.

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