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NRC RENEWS OPERATING LICENSE FOR COOPER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR AN ADDITIONAL 20 YEARS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has renewed the operating license for the Cooper Nuclear Station in Nemaha County, Neb., for an additional 20 years. The new license will expire on Jan. 18, 2034.

The decision to renew the license comes after thorough safety and environmental reviews of the application submitted in September 2008, by the plant's operator, Nebraska Public Power District. The Cooper Nuclear Station is a boiling-water nuclear reactor located 23 miles south of Nebraska City, Neb. The NRC held public meetings near the plant on Feb. 25, 2009, and April 7, 2010, to discuss Cooper's environmental review. In July, NRC staff concluded there were no environmental impacts that would preclude renewal of the license for environmental reasons.

After careful review of the plant's safety systems and specifications, the staff concluded that there were no safety concerns that would preclude license renewal and that the applicant had effectively demonstrated the capability to manage the effects of plant aging. In addition, NRC conducted inspections of the plant to verify information submitted by the applicant. On Oct. 26, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards – an independent body of technical experts that advises the Commission – issued its recommendation that license renewal for Cooper should be approved.

The safety and environmental review reports, application and letters relating to the Cooper license renewal are available on the NRC website at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/cooper.html>.

The Cooper license represents the 60th reactor license renewed by the NRC. A complete listing of renewal applications can be found on the NRC website at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

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