

NPPD lists 34 tasks needed to restart plant

BROWNVILLE (AP)—Nebraska Public Power District officials on Tuesday released a report outlining what steps need to be taken before the Cooper Nuclear Station near here can be restarted.

The report's list of 34 tasks appears to be comparable to the tasks identified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, commission spokesman Joe Gilliland said.

On Nov. 17, a nuclear commission evaluation team and an industry evaluation team will release their preliminary findings concerning problems at the station, Gilliland said.

The findings will include what has to be done before the plant can be restarted.

The 778-megawatt plant has been shut down since a current breaker was found tied closed on May 25. The problem could have rendered backup diesel generators inoperable during an emergency, the nuclear commission said.

It was one of a series of problems that led the commission to list Cooper as having a "recognized negative

trend." Management was changed over the summer and in October.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff on Tuesday praised the management changes at the station on the Missouri River in southeast Nebraska. The meeting was the first public session since John Mueller took over as head of the team of engineers trying to get the plant back on line.

Mueller told the nuclear commission that previous management lacked clear direction. Part of the problem, he said, was that Cooper had a history of few problems, leading management to pay little concern to such matters.

Joe Callan, the nuclear commission's Region IV administrator, said he could not speculate on a possible date when the NPPD-owned plant could resume electric production.

"The exit meeting next week will be a stark reminder of past problems and brings to mind that there may be more work before we can consider a start-up date," Callan said.

UNL Chancellor backs removal

By Sean McCarthy
Staff Reporter

UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier said at an Academic Senate meeting on Tuesday that he supported the removal of Ray

Massey from a UNL faculty committee that oversees a 4-H camp.

Massey said he received a letter from Ken Bolen, director of Cooperative Extension, last week stating he had been removed.

During the meeting, Spanier discussed the difficulties of balancing free speech and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's commitment toward tolerance, sensitivity and diversity.

"I understand from personal experience that one's convictions, conscience and philosophy sometimes pose dilemmas at this juncture," Spanier said.

Massey was removed from the committee because of his unwillingness to follow the university's

nondiscrimination policy, Spanier said. Massey was free to discuss and promote his views, Spanier said, but he was not willing to follow equal opportunity laws and policies.

"I want to assure the members of this faculty, and indeed all citizens of this state, that we will continue to administer UNL in an open and fair manner," Spanier said, "respecting the principle of tolerance and following the policies and procedures that have worked so well for this university in the past."

In other business, Kenneth Kiewra, an educational psychology professor, spoke to the senate about the continuing need of an academic success center.

"The average student here has no place to go for academic supportive assistance," Kiewra said.

He stressed the importance of teaching learning strategies to students to help them get better grades.

Don Wilhite, an agricultural meteorology professor, and Doug Jose, an agricultural economics professor, addressed the senate

about a report prepared by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The report examines the ratio of faculty to students on campus.

The ratio of students to faculty is 13 to 1, the report states. Jose and Wilhite said that ratio was inaccurate, because not all faculty members teach classes.

Faculty in the libraries, museum and research centers don't teach, they said.

When nonteaching faculty are removed from the figures, they said, the ratio of students to faculty is 19.3 to 1. Wilhite and Jose said UNL needed more teaching positions.

Two reports were submitted to the senate, one from the research council and one from the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color.

The senate also passed two resolutions. The first resolution prohibited proxy votes on any senate motions or elections.

The second resolution abolished the Salary Study Committee and instead started the Faculty Salary Advisory Committee.

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