Generating Capacity: 810 megawatts (net)

Type: Boiling water nuclear reactor

Generator manufacturer: Westinghouse

Reactor manufacturer: General Electric

Construction cost: $313 million

Milestones:
- June 4, 1968 - Construction permit granted
- May 10, 1974 - Plant synchronized to grid
- July 1, 1974 - Commercial operation began
- Nov. 29, 2010 - NRC extends Cooper’s original license through 2034.

Cubic yards of concrete: 90,000

Tons of steel: 10,000

Piping: More than 50 systems

Electrical cable: 1,100 miles

Location size: 1,351 acres (1,121 acres in Nebraska and 230 on the opposite bank of the Missouri River in Missouri).

Station personnel: Approximately 730 full-time

Environmental Protection

Nuclear energy is environmentally friendly. Nuclear energy is America’s largest source of clean-air, carbon-free electricity, producing no greenhouse gases or air pollutants. The industry’s commitment to the environment extends to protecting wildlife and their habitats.

After nuclear fuel has been used for about five years, it loses much of its heat-generating capacity. It is removed from the reactor and placed into a deep pool of water in the used fuel pool at the plant site where the residual decay heat is continuously removed and where the water acts as a barrier to stop radiation from leaving the used fuel pool.

The Federal government is responsible for the long-term storage of all used nuclear fuel. Efforts to develop a central Federal repository located at Yucca Mountain in Nevada have not been successful. Until a federal storage repository is available, Cooper is also using dry casks to store used fuel on-site.

CNS has an extensive radiation monitoring program that continually measures radiation levels in the atmosphere around the facility, the soil, vegetation, milk, water wells, wildlife and the river. To date, no adverse environmental effects due to operation of the plant have been reported.

Commitment to Safety

Safety shall always come first: There is no condition that requires any of us to work in an unsafe manner.

For more information about NPPD visit: www.nppd.com
Cooper Nuclear Station is named in honor of Guy L. Cooper Sr., and the Cooper family of Humboldt, Nebraska. The family had been active in the Nebraska electric industry and civic affairs since 1868 when pioneer Henry Cooper arrived in Nebraska at the then-bustling river port at Brownville.

O.A. Cooper built the first electrical plant in Humboldt in 1890. In 1947, Gov. Val Peterson named Guy Cooper Sr., then president of O.A. Cooper Company, to the Board of Directors of Consumers Public Power District, a predecessor of Nebraska Public Power District.

For 27 years, the Cooper family had continuous representation on the Consumers Public Power District and NPPD boards of directors. After Guy Cooper, Sr., retired in 1957, his son, Guy Cooper Jr., became a board member. Like his father, Guy Jr. twice served as president of the board of directors. He served continuously on the board until his resignation in 1975.

The name...