



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 1, 2010

Mr. Mark A. Schimmel
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

On August 5, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the Security Cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter for Prairie Island Unit 1 was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

Plant performance for Prairie Island Unit 2 for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on one inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone being classified as having low-to-moderate safety significance (White). This finding from the third quarter of 2009 was related to inadequate design of the component cooling water system. A supplemental inspection (95001) was performed the week of June 14-18, 2010. The results of this inspection will be documented in a future inspection report.

Since the 2009 mid-cycle assessment letter, dated September 1, 2009 (ADAMS Ref. ML092440367), we have advised you of a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) in the area of human performance (HP) with cross-cutting themes in the aspects of systematic process (H.1(a)), conservative assumptions (H.1(b)), procedural adequacy (H.2(c)), and procedural compliance (H.4(b)). During this assessment period there were 16 findings documented with cross-cutting aspects in the HP area. Of these 16 findings, three shared a common cross-cutting aspect of systematic process, two findings with conservative assumptions, three findings with procedural adequacy, and three findings with procedural compliance.

With respect to the SCCI in conservative assumptions, H.1(b), both the NRC and your organization have noted an improvement in this area. Your staff has identified corrective actions that should reasonably address the SCCI. Additionally, the number of findings with a cross-cutting aspect in conservative assumptions has been reduced. For these reasons, the NRC has gained confidence in your ability to correct the concerns identified and sustained improvement has been observed in this aspect. Therefore, the SCCI aspect in conservative assumption (H.1(b)) is closed.

For the SCCI in the HP area related to the aspects of systematic process (H.1(a)), procedural adequacy (H.2(c)), and procedural compliance (H.4(b)), although the number of findings in all these SCCI themes decreased during this assessment, the overall number of findings related to HP has remained high. We recognize that you have initiated comprehensive measures to address this issue and improvement has been observed, but the high number of HP related findings indicates that these actions have not yet resulted in positive sustainable improvement in mitigating the cross-cutting themes. As a result, the SCCI will remain open. To clear each of the themes, we will assess whether your corrective actions have resulted in a positive sustainable improvement in the area and will consider the number of findings in the theme.

In addition, because you have had a substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of HP for three consecutive assessment cycles, we will be reviewing your recently completed independent safety culture assessment during the upcoming Problem Identification & Resolution inspection, which is scheduled for September 20 through October 8, 2010. Please notify us of your readiness to conduct the review of the safety culture assessment during this inspection. Additionally, we are requesting to meet with you to discuss your progress in addressing the SCCI. A public meeting will accommodate this discussion at an agreed upon time and location. Please contact us within 30 days of receipt of this letter to discuss arrangements for this meeting.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through December 31, 2011. We also plan on performing several special and infrequently performed inspections that include: Inspection Procedure (IP) 92709, "Licensee Strike Contingency Plans," and IP 60855.1, Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Robert Orlikowski at 630-829-9753 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Steven West, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306; 72-010
License Nos. DPR-42; DPR-60; SNM-2506

Enclosure: Prairie Island Inspection/Activity Plan

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Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2010 - 12/31/2011

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		6
09/20/2010	10/08/2010	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
		STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY-OPS/MAINT/I&C/ENGR/QC		2
08/02/2010	12/31/2010	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
02/21/2011	02/25/2011	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
02/21/2011	02/25/2011	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
02/21/2011	02/25/2011	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
02/21/2011	02/25/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		BI ENG - INSERVICE INSPECTION - U1		1
04/30/2011	06/04/2011	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
05/09/2011	05/13/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
05/09/2011	05/13/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
		BI EP - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
06/13/2011	06/17/2011	IP 71151-IE03	Unplanned Power Changes per 7000 Critical Hrs	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
		BI ENG - MODIFICATIONS / 50.59 INSPECTION		3
09/12/2011	09/30/2011	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 2515/179	Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Requirement for Inventories of Materials Tracked in NSTS	
10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
		BI OL - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
10/17/2011	10/21/2011	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	

M. Schimmel

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Letter to M. Schimmel from S. West dated September 1, 2010.

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

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