



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

March 5, 2012

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: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR  
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000282/2011007  
AND 05000306/2011007)**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

On February 15, 2012, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, Unit 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Unit 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at Unit 2.

The NRC determined the performance at Unit 1 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's ROP Action Matrix because of one inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone being classified as having low-to-moderate significance (White) involving potential common cause failure of the safety-related battery chargers. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at Unit 1, in addition to a supplemental inspection as discussed below.

On January 17, 2012, your staff notified the NRC of your readiness for it to conduct the supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the performance issues associated with the potential common cause failure of the safety-related battery chargers. This inspection will be conducted in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area," beginning on March 5, 2012. The purpose of this inspection is to provide assurance that the root causes and contributing causes of the risk-significant performance issues are understood; that the extent of condition and extent of cause of risk-significant performance issues are identified; and that the corrective actions for risk-significant performance issues are sufficient to address the root and contributing causes and prevent recurrence.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

From January 1 to December 31, 2011, the NRC issued four traditional enforcement violations. Two of the violations were associated with inaccurate information provided to the NRC during the approval of new emergency action levels associated with radiation monitors. The remaining two violations were associated with reporting issues. The NRC plans to follow up on these violations during the Biennial Problem Identification and Resolution Inspection scheduled to begin on July 23, 2012.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter will be 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).

M. Schimmel

- 3 -

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 Kenneth Riemer at 630-829-9628 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

***/RA/ By Gary L. Shear Acting For/***

Steven West, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

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Letter to M. Schimmel from S. West dated March 5, 2012

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR  
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000282/2011007  
AND 05000306/2011007)

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**Prairie Island**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**01/01/2012 - 06/30/2013**

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		<b>STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINENCY - PLANNER</b>		<b>2</b>
01/17/2012	02/17/2012	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		<b>SUP - 95001 SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
03/05/2012	03/09/2012	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area	
		<b>BI ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION - UNIT 2</b>		<b>1</b>
02/20/2012	03/23/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>
02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		<b>ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT</b>		<b>1</b>
05/01/2012	07/31/2012	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		<b>OL PREP - PR. ISLAND INIT PREP - 04/2012</b>		<b>5</b>
04/16/2012	04/20/2012	W90250	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2012 MAY - PRAI	
		<b>TI-182 - TI-2515/182 PHASE 1 - BURIED PIPING</b>		<b>1</b>
05/08/2012	05/11/2012	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	
		<b>OL EXAM - PR. ISLAND INIT EXAM - 05/2012</b>		<b>5</b>
05/14/2012	05/25/2012	W90250	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2012 MAY - PRAI	
		<b>BI FIRE - FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION &amp; BAG TRIP</b>		<b>5</b>
05/21/2012	06/22/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
		<b>BI EPX - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION</b>		<b>2</b>
07/09/2012	07/13/2012	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
07/09/2012	07/13/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		<b>BI PI&amp;R - BIENNIAL PI&amp;R</b>		<b>3</b>
07/23/2012	08/10/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
		<b>BI HS - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>
08/13/2012	08/17/2012	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
		<b>BI OLRQ - REQUALIFICATION INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
09/17/2012	09/21/2012	IP 7111111A	Licensed Operator Requalification Program - Annual Review	
		<b>BI ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION - UNIT 1</b>		<b>1</b>
10/27/2012	11/30/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	

**Prairie Island**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**01/01/2012 - 06/30/2013**

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		<b>RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION 71003 PHASE 1</b>		<b>2</b>
10/27/2012	11/30/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
		<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>2</b>
11/05/2012	11/09/2012	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
11/05/2012	11/09/2012	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
11/05/2012	11/09/2012	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
		<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
11/26/2012	11/30/2012	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
		<b>STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY - OPS/MAINT/RP/QC</b>		<b>2</b>
12/01/2012	12/31/2012	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		<b>BI CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION</b>		<b>6</b>
03/18/2013	04/19/2013	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
		<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
01/28/2013	02/01/2013	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
		<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
03/18/2013	03/22/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
03/18/2013	03/22/2013	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
03/18/2013	03/22/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
03/18/2013	03/22/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		<b>BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>
05/06/2013	05/10/2013	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
		<b>RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION 71003-PHASE 2</b>		<b>6</b>
05/20/2013	06/14/2013	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	