



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

September 4, 2012

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER - PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2**

Dear Mr. Molden:

On August 7, 2012, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of the 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 July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. The assessment reflects the integration of the Security Cornerstone into Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

The NRC determined the performance at Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because of one or more greater-than-green Security Cornerstone input(s) as described in NRC Inspection Report Number 05000282/2011408; 05000306/2011408, sent on February 16, 2012.

On May 16, 2012, your staff notified the NRC of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the performance issues. Therefore, in addition to ROP baseline inspections, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area."

The NRC also plans to conduct non-routine inspections and temporary instructions at your facility, including: Inspection Procedure (IP) 71003, "Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal"; IP 71111.21, "Component Design Basis Inspection"; Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/182, "Review of Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks (Phase 2)"; TI 2515/187, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns"; and TI 2515/188, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns."

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. 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 end-of-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. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

Additionally, the NRC identifies substantive cross-cutting issues (SCCIs) to communicate a concern with the licensee's performance in a cross-cutting area and to encourage the licensee to take appropriate actions before more significant performance issues emerge. The NRC identified a cross-cutting theme in the Human Performance Decision-Making component. Specifically, four or more green or safety-significant inspection findings for the current 12-month assessment period were assigned a cross-cutting aspect of H.1(b), "Conservative Assumptions." The NRC determined that an SCCI exists because the NRC has a concern with your staff's effort and progress in addressing the cross-cutting theme. The NRC noted that your staff had not thoroughly evaluated the SCCI nor implemented effective corrective actions to address the SCCI.

The human performance SCCI will remain open until the number of findings with a cross-cutting aspect of H.1(b) is reduced, the corrective actions taken to mitigate the cross-cutting theme prove effective, and sustained performance improvement is observed in the human performance area. The NRC will monitor your staff's effort and progress in addressing the SCCI by evaluating your corrective action program, the root cause evaluation for the SCCI, and performance improvement initiatives to adequately assess if positive results are obtained.

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 System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (630) 829-9601 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary L. Shear, Acting Division Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306
License Nos. DPR-42; DPR-60

Enclosure: Inspection Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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Letter to J. Molden from G. Shear dated September 4, 2012

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER - PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

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Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		TI-187 - TI-187 FLOODING WALKDOWN		2
07/01/2012	12/30/2012	IP 2515/187	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	
		TI-188 - TI-188 SEISMIC WALKDOWN		2
07/02/2012	12/31/2012	IP 2515/187	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	
		BI OLRQ - REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
09/24/2012	09/28/2012	IP 7111111A	Licensed Operator Requalification Program - Annual Review	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		1
11/01/2012	11/30/2012	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		BI ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION - UNIT 1		1
10/27/2012	11/30/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION 71003 PHASE 1		2
10/27/2012	11/30/2012	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		2
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	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
11/26/2012	11/30/2012	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
		STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY - OPS/MAINT/RP/QC		2
12/01/2012	12/31/2012	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		BI CDBI - COMPONENT DESIGN BASIS INSPECTION		6
03/18/2013	04/19/2013	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
01/28/2013	02/01/2013	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
01/28/2013	02/01/2013	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
01/28/2013	02/01/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
01/28/2013	02/01/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		1
03/04/2013	05/31/2013	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		TI 182 - TI 182 BURIED PIPING PHASE 2		1
1	02/25/2013	03/01/2013	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping

Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		2
02/25/2013	03/01/2013	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation		
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
05/06/2013	05/10/2013	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		
			RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION 71003-PHASE 2		5
05/20/2013	06/14/2013	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal		
			INSP - STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT INSPECTION		2
07/01/2013	12/06/2013	IP 50001	Steam Generator Replacement Inspection		
			BI EPR - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
07/29/2013	08/02/2013	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		
07/29/2013	08/02/2013	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System		
07/29/2013	08/02/2013	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		
07/29/2013	08/02/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		
			RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION 71003 PHASE 1		2
09/20/2013	11/24/2013	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal		
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
09/16/2013	09/20/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls		
			BI OLRQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
09/16/2013	09/20/2013	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program		
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/07/2013	10/11/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls		
			BI ISI - ISI BASELINE INSPECTION UNIT 2		1
10/28/2013	11/29/2013	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		