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NRC Names New Resident Inspector at Prairie Island Nuclear Station



The U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission has selected Paul LaFlamme as the new Resident Inspector at the Prairie Island nuclear power plant in Welch, Minn., approximately 28 miles southeast of Minneapolis. The nuclear power facility is operated by Northern States Power Co.-Minnesota.

LaFlamme joined the NRC as a reactor engineer in Region III in 2007. Before joining the NRC he worked for the Department of the Navy at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard as a nuclear shift test engineer. He received a bachelor's of science degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin. Most recently he was a resident inspector at the D.C. Cook nuclear power plant in Michigan.

"Paul LaFlamme is an experienced inspector with a firm commitment to safety. He will help the NRC fulfill its mission of protecting people and the environment by ensuring operators of the Prairie Island plant meet the high standards set by the NRC," said Region III Administrator Cynthia D. Pederson.

Each U.S. commercial nuclear plant site has at least two NRC resident inspectors. They serve as the agency's eyes and ears at the facility, conducting inspections, monitoring major work projects and interacting with plant workers and the public. LaFlamme joins Senior Resident Inspector Karla Stodter. The resident inspectors can be reached at (651) 388-8209.