

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Region III Office of Public Affairs
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: RIII-96-12
CONTACT: Jan Strasma 708/829-9663

April 1, 1996

Angela Dauginas 708/829-9662
E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

PRAIRIE ISLAND PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN THREE AREAS,
"GOOD" IN ONE AREA IN LATEST SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant has received performance ratings of "superior" in plant operations, maintenance, and plant support and "good" in engineering in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for the facility.

The SALP report was sent March 28 to Northern States Power Company (NSP), which operates the plant in Red Wing, Minnesota. It evaluates the plant's performance from July 24, 1994, through February 17.

NRC and NSP officials will discuss the assessment during a meeting set for 9 a.m. on April 17 at the Prairie Island Training Center on the plant site. The meeting will be open for public observation. NRC officials will be available afterwards to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

NRC SALP reports rate licensees in four functional areas - plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support - and assign ratings of Category 1, 2 or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas was superior, good or adequate. The report on Prairie Island gives the plant a "Category 1" rating in plant operations, maintenance, and plant support, indicating superior performance. It assigns a rating of "Category 2" to engineering, indicating good performance.

NRC Regional Administrator Hubert J. Miller, in a letter to the utility, said: "...the conduct of nuclear activities at Prairie Island was excellent overall, and was properly focused on nuclear safety."

"Prairie Island's performance was characterized by strong management involvement and a conservative approach to operations," he added. "Interdepartmental communications, teamwork and work controls were strong."

The ratings for each functional area of this report and the previous report were:

<u>Functional Area</u>	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>
Operations	1	1
Maintenance	1	1
Engineering	2	2
Plant Support	1	1

#

(Note: A copy of the full report may be obtained from the Region III Office of Public Affairs at the telephone numbers or e-mail address above.)