

February 12, 2001

EA-00-282

Mr. J. Sorensen  
Site General Manager  
Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT - NRC  
INSPECTION REPORT 50-282/00-13(DRS); 50-306/00-13(DRS)

REFERENCE: NRC Letter dated December 20, 2000

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

On November 3, 2000, the NRC completed the first baseline safety system design and performance capability inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. NRC Inspection Report 50-282/00-13(DRS); 50-306/00-13(DRS), issued December 20, 2000, documented the results of that inspection.

The inspection report discussed a design issue that involved an inadequacy in the design of the three safety related deep draft cooling water (service water) pumps and an inadequate design change to the pumps in 1977. As stated in the NRC inspection report, the issue was preliminarily assessed using the applicable NRC Significance Determination Process (SDP) as having substantial safety significance (Yellow).

In response to recent questions from your staff regarding the NRC's characterization of the significance of this issue, an error was identified in the original NRC Phase 3 SDP analysis. Although the analysis credited operator actions to cross-tie the Unit 2 diesel generators to Unit 1 if the filters for the Filtered Water Supply plugged during a Loss of Offsite Power event (LOOP), an error in the fault tree analysis resulted in overestimating the risk associated with this evolution. In re-performing the analysis, the issue has been recharacterized as having low to moderate safety significance, a White rather than Yellow finding. We discussed this analysis error and the resultant change in the NRC's preliminary risk assessment for this finding with you by phone on February 5, 2001.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

We regret any inconvenience that this error may have caused. We will gladly discuss any questions you may have concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

**/ RA /**

John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-282, 50-306  
License No. DPR-42, DPR-60

cc: Plant Manager, Prairie Island  
M. Wadley, Chief Nuclear Officer  
G. Eckholt, Site Licensing Manager  
S. Northard, Nuclear Asset Manager  
J. Malcolm, Commissioner, Minnesota  
Department of Health  
State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin  
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community  
J. Silberg, Esquire  
Shawn, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge  
P. Tester, Assistant Attorney General  
Minnesota Office of Attorney General  
S. Bloom, Administrator  
Goodhue County Courthouse  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department  
Of Commerce

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