

February 8, 2002

Mr. Mano Nazar
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 -
CLOSEOUT OF GENERIC LETTER 99-02, "LABORATORY TESTING OF
NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" (TAC NOS. MA5833 AND
MA5834)

Dear Mr. Nazar:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-Grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their technical specifications (TSs) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TSs do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TSs to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses on the implementation of the actions requested in the GL.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) plants in compliance with their TSs that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (2) plants in compliance with their TSs that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989
- (3) plants not in compliance with their TSs that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) plants not in compliance with their TSs that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

In response to GL 99-02, you provided letters dated December 3, 1999, October 18, 2001, and December 12, 2001. Associated with your letter dated December 12, 2001, was a request for a license amendment to change your TSs to provide for testing as described in the GL. In addition, you have committed to test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989 until your TS amendment is issued. Therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your facility. The TS change will be reviewed as a separate plant-specific action under (TAC Nos. MB3924 and MB3925).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1392.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc: See next page

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Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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Tribal Council
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