Mr. Roy A. Anderson
Executive Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
700 First Street
Hudson, WI 54016

SUBJECT: USE OF PROTECTED TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR TRANSMISSION OF

SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION - DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER, KEWAUNEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT, POINT BEACH

NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING

PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB4790, MB4791 MB4792, MB4793,

MB4794, MB4795, MB4776, AND MB4777)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

By letter dated April 4, 2002, in accordance with 10 CFR 73.21(g)(3), the Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC), requested the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) approval for the use of protected telecommunications for the transmission of safeguards information among its six plants and between the six plants and NMC's corporate office in Hudson, Wisconsin. NMC specifically requested approval for the use of the Privatel Model 960v from L-3 Communications.

On July 17, 1995, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) established the Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) that validates cryptographic modules to Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 (Security Requirements for Cryptographic Modules), and other FIPS cryptography-based standards. The CMVP is a joint effort between NIST and the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) of the Government of Canada. Products validated as conforming to FIPS 140-2 are accepted by the Federal agencies of both countries for the protection of sensitive information. Vendors of cryptographic modules use independent accredited testing laboratories to test their modules. NIST's Computer Security Division and CSE jointly serve as the validation authorities for the program validating the test results. Currently, there are four National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program accredited laboratories that perform FIPS 140-2 compliance testing, three in the United States and one in Canada. The Secretary of Commerce has made FIPS 140-2 mandatory and binding for U.S. Federal agencies and organizations. The standard is specifically applicable when a Federal agency determines that cryptography is necessary for protecting sensitive information. This protection involves situations where products containing a cryptographic module are used when designing, acquiring, and implementing cryptographic-based security systems. FIPS 140-2 is applicable if the module is incorporated in a product or application, or functions as a stand-alone device.

The Privatel Model 960v is validated to FIPS 140-2 and is Number 108 on the Cryptographic Modules Validation List. Therefore, the use of this product would be an acceptable method for protecting the telecommunication of U.S. Government sensitive information, such as unclassified safeguards information.

NRC's approval of NMC's request for use of the Privatel Model 960v encryption system is contingent upon continued NIST approval.

The use of a validated cryptologic module in a computer or telecommunications system is not sufficient to ensure the security of the overall system. It is recommended that the responsible authority at each NMC site develop and implement written guidance and procedures, physical and environmental controls, and information and data controls for the system.

The NRC's approval of NMC's request applies only to use of the Privatel Model 960v to provide an encryption media for voice communications involving safeguards information and is contingent upon NMC's continuous compliance with the provisions of 10 CFR 73.21, "Requirements for the protection of safeguards information." In accordance with 10 CFR 73.21(a), NMC is required to establish and maintain an information protection system that satisfies 10 CFR 73.21(b) through (i). Compliance with the provisions of 10 CFR 73.21 is inspectable. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-2928.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Deirdre W. Spaulding, Project Manager, Section 1 Project Directorate III Division of Licensing Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-331, 50-305, 50-263, 50-255, 50-266, 50-301, 50-282 and 50-306

cc: See next page

R. Anderson - 2 -

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Duane Arnold Energy Center

CC:

Mr. Al Gutterman Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP 111 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20004

Chairman, Linn County Board of Supervisors Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Plant Manager, Nuclear Duane Arnold Energy Center Nuclear Management Company, LLC 3277 DAEC Road Palo, IA 52324

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Resident Inspector's Office Rural Route #1 Palo, IA 52324

Regional Administrator U.S. NRC, Region III 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, IL 60532-4531

Daniel McGhee Utilities Division Iowa Department of Commerce Lucas Office Building, 5th floor Des Moines, IA 50319 Nuclear Asset Manager Alliant Energy/IES Utilities, Inc. 3277 DAEC Road Palo, IA 52324

Mr. Gary Van Middlesworth Site Vice President Duane Arnold Energy Center Nuclear Management Company, LLC 3277 DAEC Road Palo, IA 52324

Mr. Edward Weinkam Director, Regulatory Services Nuclear Management Company, LLC 700 First Street Hudson, WI 54016

Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant

CC:

Foley & Lardner ATTN: Bradley D. Jackson One South Pinckney Street P.O. Box 1497 Madison, WI 53701-1497

Chairman Town of Carlton Route 1 Kewaunee, WI 54216

Mr. Gerald Novickis, Chairman Kewaunee County Board Kewaunee County Courthouse 613 Dodge Street Kewaunee, WI 54216

Attorney General 114 East, State Capitol Madison, WI 53702

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Resident Inspectors Office Route #1, Box 999 Kewaunee, WI 54216

Regional Administrator - Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, IL 60532-4531

James D. Loock, Chief Engineer Public Service Commission of Wisconsin 610 N. Whitney Way Madison, WI 53707-7854 Nuclear Asset Manager Wisconsin Public Service Corporation 600 N. Adams Street Green Bay, WI 54307-9002

Plant Manager Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Nuclear Management Company, LLC North 490, Highway 42 Kewaunee, WI 54216-9511

Mr. Mark Warner Site Vice President Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant Nuclear Management Company, LLC 6610 Nuclear Road Two Rivers, WI 54241

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

CC:

J. E. Silberg, Esquire Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge 2300 N Street, N. W. Washington, DC 20037

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Resident Inspector's Office 2807 W. County Road 75 Monticello, MN 55362

Site Licensing Manager Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Nuclear Management Company, LLC 2807 West County Road 75 Monticello, MN 55362-9637

Robert Nelson, President Minnesota Environmental Control Citizens Association (MECCA) 1051 South McKnight Road St. Paul, MN 55119

Commissioner Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 520 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Regional Administrator, Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
717 Delaware Street, S. E.
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Douglas M. Gruber, Auditor/Treasurer Wright County Government Center 10 NW Second Street Buffalo, MN 55313 Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Commerce
121 Seventh Place East
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55101-2145

Adonis A. Neblett Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 445 Minnesota Street Suite 900 St. Paul, MN 55101-2127

Nuclear Asset Manager Xcel Energy, Inc. 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mr. Jeffrey S. Forbes Site Vice President Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Nuclear Management Company, LLC 2807 West County Road 75 Monticello, MN 55362-9637

Palisades Plant

CC:

Mr. Robert A. Fenech, Senior Vice President Nuclear, Fossil, and Hydro Operations Consumers Energy Company 212 West Michigan Avenue Jackson, MI 49201

Arunas T. Udrys, Esquire Consumers Energy Company 212 West Michigan Avenue Jackson, MI 49201

Regional Administrator, Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Supervisor Covert Township P. O. Box 35 Covert, MI 49043

Office of the Governor P. O. Box 30013 Lansing, MI 48909

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Resident Inspector's Office Palisades Plant 27782 Blue Star Memorial Highway Covert, MI 49043

Drinking Water and Radiological Protection Division Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd P. O. Box 30630 CPH Mailroom Lansing, MI 48909-8130 Michigan Department of Attorney General Special Litigation Division 630 Law Building P.O. Box 30212 Lansing, MI 48909

Laurie A. Lahti Manager - Licensing Nuclear Management Company, LLC 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway Covert, MI 49043

Steven T. Wawro Nuclear Asset Director Consumers Energy Company Palisades Plant 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway Covert, MI 49043

Mr. John Paul Cowan Senior Vice President Palisades Plant Nuclear Management Company, LLC 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway Covert, MI 49043

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper Site Vice President Palisades Plant 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway Covert, MI 49043

Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

CC:

Mr. John H. O'Neill, Jr. Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge 2300 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20037-1128

Mr. Richard R. Grigg President and Chief Operating Officer Wisconsin Electric Power Company 231 West Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53201

Site Licensing Manager
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

Mr. Ken Duveneck Town Chairman Town of Two Creeks 13017 State Highway 42 Mishicot, WI 54228

Chairman
Public Service Commission
of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Regional Administrator, Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Resident Inspector's Office U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 6612 Nuclear Road Two Rivers, WI 54241 Ms. Sarah Jenkins
Electric Division
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Nuclear Asset Manager Wisconsin Electric Power Company 231 West Michigan Street Milwaukee, WI 53201 Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2

CC:

J. E. Silberg, Esquire Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge 2300 N Street, N. W. Washington, DC 20037

Site Licensing Manager
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

Adonis A. Neblett Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General 455 Minnesota Street Suite 900 St. Paul, MN 55101-2127

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Resident Inspector's Office 1719 Wakonade Drive East Welch, MN 55089-9642

Regional Administrator, Region III U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 801 Warrenville Road Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Administrator Goodhue County Courthouse Box 408 Red Wing, MN 55066-0408

Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Commerce
121 Seventh Place East
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55101-2145

Tribal Council
Prairie Island Indian Community
ATTN: Environmental Department
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089

Nuclear Asset Manager Xcel Energy, Inc. 414 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis, MN 55401

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