May 2, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: L. Raghavan, Chief,
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Michael L. Scott, Chief ***/RA/***
Safety Issue Resolution Branch
Division of Safety Systems
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT: REPORT ON RESULTS OF STAFF AUDIT OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS GENERIC LETTER 2004-02

Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," requested that all pressurized-water reactor licensees (1) evaluate the adequacy of the emergency sump recirculation function with respect to potentially adverse effects associated with post-accident debris, and (2) implement any plant modifications determined to be necessary. Nuclear Management Company (NMC), the operator/licensee, has conducted an evaluation of recirculation sump performance for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PI) Unit No. 1 and Unit No. 2. NMC has installed new sump strainers in each unit.

The staff has conducted an audit of the new sump design and associated analyses and testing for PI. This is one of several audits to be conducted to establish a sample basis to assist in verifying the adequacy of licensee corrective actions to address GL 2004-02. With the assistance of the DORL Project Manager for PI, SSIB has forwarded the draft report to NMC. NMC, after consultation with its contractors and vendors for GL 2004-02 corrective actions, has confirmed that there is no proprietary information contained in the audit report.

This memorandum transmits the enclosed audit report to the Division of Operator Reactor Licensing for forwarding to the licensee. The enclosed audit report provides NMC with feedback on its GL 2004-02 corrective actions and supporting analyses. Also, when made publically available, this audit report will serve as a vehicle to inform other pressurized water reactor licensees of the staff's technical positions.

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The licensee was very supportive during all phases of the audit. Consideration was given by NMC in providing appropriate office space, supplies, and equipment and facilitating the ECCS pump rooms tour taken by audit team members. The licensee's support during the preparation, conduct and report writing phases of the audit was helpful to the fullest extent possible.

The enclosed audit report does not reach a conclusion regarding overall adequacy of NMC's GL 2004-02 corrective actions. NMC's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response is expected to respond to the open items in the enclosed audit report and to the GL 2004-02 requests for additional information, as well as provide a comprehensive description of NMC's corrective actions and supporting analyses and evaluations. In early CY 2008 staff consideration of this audit report and NMC's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response will result in a letter to NMC assessing the overall adequacy of the PI GL 2004-02 corrective actions.

The audit team did not evaluate whether the licensee has identified and submitted all appropriate licensing documents for its GL 2004-02 corrective actions. The licensee's maintenance of its licensing basis is within the scope of the Reactor Oversight Program. The audit team did not evaluate the completion of the licensee's implementation of GL 2004-02 corrective actions that it has committed to take. That is also within the scope of the Reactor Oversight Program under TI 2515/166, "Pressurized Water Reactor Containment Sump Blockage."

Docket Nos: 50-282, 50-306

Enclosure: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Corrective Actions for Generic Letter 2004-02 Audit Report

The licensee was very supportive during all phases of the audit. Consideration was given by NMC in providing appropriate office space, supplies, and equipment and facilitating the ECCS pump rooms tour taken by audit team members. The licensee's support during the preparation, conduct and report writing phases of the audit was helpful to the fullest extent possible.

The enclosed audit report does not reach a conclusion regarding overall adequacy of NMC's GL 2004-02 corrective actions. NMC's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response is expected to respond to the open items in the enclosed audit report and to the GL 2004-02 requests for additional information, as well as provide a comprehensive description of NMC's corrective actions and supporting analyses and evaluations. In early CY 2008 staff consideration of this audit report and NMC's end-of-CY 2007 GL 2004-02 supplemental response will result in a letter to NMC assessing the overall adequacy of the PI GL 2004-02 corrective actions.

The audit team did not evaluate whether the licensee has identified and submitted all appropriate licensing documents for its GL 2004-02 corrective actions. The licensee's maintenance of its licensing basis is within the scope of the Reactor Oversight Program. The audit team did not evaluate the completion of the licensee's implementation of GL 2004-02 corrective actions that it has committed to take. That is also within the scope of the Reactor Oversight Program under TI 2515/166, "Pressurized Water Reactor Containment Sump Blockage."

Docket Nos: 50-282, 50-306

Enclosure: As stated

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Package: ML071070057
Memo:ML071070182
Audit Report ML070750065 NRR-106

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