

January 27, 2009

EA-08-273

Mr. Michael D. Wadley
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company-Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR A GREEN FINDING;
NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 05000282/2008010;
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1

Dear Mr. Wadley:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you the final results of our significance determination of a finding preliminarily assessed as having low to moderate importance to safety (White). As documented in Section 4OA5.3 of NRC Integrated Inspection Report 05000282/2008004: 05000306/2008004, issued November 7, 2008, this finding is associated with your staff's failure to develop, implement and maintain procedures governing the installation of insulation on the safety-related 11 turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater pump (TDAFWP). The lack of written procedures resulted in the improper installation of insulation on the 11 TDAFWP during the March 2008 Unit 1 refueling outage. Due to the improper insulation installation, the NRC initially concluded that the 11 TDAFWP was not able to perform its safety function for 10 days after Unit 1 entered Mode 3 on March 15, 2008.

In letters dated December 5, 2008, and January 12, 2009, your staff provided information stating your staff's position on this issue. Your staff acknowledged the violation, described the issue, the root cause, the corrective actions taken, and your assessment of the risk significance associated with the inoperability of the 11 TDAFWP. Your staff performed an analysis demonstrating that the TDAFWP was inoperable for approximately 35 hours and concluded the issue was of very low risk significance.

The NRC reviewed the information developed during the inspection and the additional information provided in your letters dated December 5, 2008, and January 12, 2009. The NRC has concluded that the failure to establish, implement, and maintain procedures governing the installation of insulation on the 11 TDAFWP should be characterized as Green, a finding having very low safety significance, based on the fact that the pump was inoperable for less than the allowed Technical Specification outage time such that it screens out as Green in Phase I of the Significance Determination Process. The finding is associated with a violation of Technical Specification 5.4.1; however, because of its very low safety significance, and because it was entered into your corrective action program, the NRC is treating the issue as an NRC identified Non-Cited Violation, in accordance with Section VI.A.1 of the NRC Enforcement Policy (NCV 05000282/2008004-03). The apparent violation listed in the subject inspection report is considered closed.

M. Wadley

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-282
License No. DPR-42

cc: D. Koehl, Chief Nuclear Officer
Regulatory Affairs Manager
P. Glass, Assistant General Counsel
Nuclear Asset Manager
J. Stine, State Liaison Officer, Minnesota Department of Health
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Indian Community
Administrator, Goodhue County Courthouse
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce
Manager, Environmental Protection Division
Office of the Attorney General of Minnesota
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Dakota
County Law Enforcement Center

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PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1

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