



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 1, 2009

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

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 – GENERIC
LETTER 2004-02 SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE (TAC NOS. MC4707 AND
MC4708)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

By letters dated February 28, 2008 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML080590629) and March 31, 2008 (ADAMS Accession No. ML080920532), you submitted supplemental responses to Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors," for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PINGP). We have reviewed your submittals with a process that involved a detailed review by a team of 10 subject matter experts, with focus on the review areas described in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) "Revised Content Guide for Generic Letter 2004-02 Supplemental Responses" (ADAMS Accession No. ML073110389). The review process also included a separate "holistic" review of your submittals informed by inputs from the subject matter experts that focused on whether you have demonstrated overall that your corrective actions for Generic Letter 2004-02 are adequate.

We have no further questions at this time regarding your completion of corrective actions for GL 2004-02. In large part this conclusion is based on the very low potential debris loading at PINGP, as discussed in your supplemental responses.

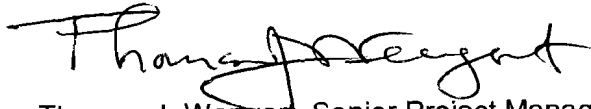
As you may be aware, we have not yet issued a final safety evaluation (SE) on WCAP-16793 NP, "Evaluation of Long-Term Cooling Considering Particulate, Fibrous, and Chemical Debris in the Recirculating Fluid." We believe that the likelihood of unacceptable in-vessel debris impact for PINGP is very low because of the low debris loading. However, because your GL 2004-02 response refers to and relies on this topical report, we plan to defer issuance of a closure letter to PINGP for the GL until uncertainties regarding the remaining issues with WCAP-16793 are reduced. You may wait for the issue to be resolved through the WCAP process or may demonstrate that in-vessel downstream effects issues are resolved for PINGP by demonstrating without reference to WCAP-16793 or the NRC staff SE that in-vessel downstream effects have been addressed at PINGP.

M. Wadley

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-4037.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Wenger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being more legible than the last name "Wenger".

Thomas J. Wenger, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

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M. Wadley

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-4037.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas J. Wengert, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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