

December 21, 2009

L-PI-09-132
10 CFR 50.73U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 1
Docket 50-282
License No. DPR-42LER 1-09-07, Unanalyzed Condition due to a Breached Fire Barrier

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM) herewith encloses Licensee Event Report (LER) 1-09-07. The LER describes a breached fire barrier that was identified. **NSPM will supplement this LER after the causal evaluation of the as-found condition is complete.**

Summary of Commitments

This letter contains no new commitments and no changes to existing commitments.

Mark A. Schimmel
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company - Minnesota

Enclosure

cc: Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Project Manager, Prairie Island, USNRC
Resident Inspector, Prairie Island, USNRC
Department of Commerce, State of Minnesota

ENCLOSURE

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 1-09-07

3 Pages Follow

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

Estimated burden per response to comply with this mandatory collection request: 80 hours. Reported lessons learned are incorporated into the licensing process and fed back to industry. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Service Branch (T-5 F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0066), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

1. FACILITY NAME Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 1	2. DOCKET NUMBER 05000282	3. PAGE 1 of 3
--	------------------------------	-------------------

4. TITLE
Unanalyzed Condition due to a Breached Fire Barrier

5. EVENT DATE			6. LER NUMBER			7. REPORT DATE			8. OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REV NO	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
9	13	2009	2009	- 007 -	00	12	21	2009	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER

9. OPERATING MODE Mode 5	11. THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check all that apply)			
10. POWER LEVEL 0%	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2201(b)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(3)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(vii)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2201(d)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(3)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(viii)(A)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(1)	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(viii)(B)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(i)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(1)(i)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(ix)(A)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(1)(ii)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(iv)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(x)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.36(c)(2)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 73.71(a)(4)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.46(a)(3)(ii)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> 73.71(a)(5)
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(v)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20.2203(a)(2)(vi)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> 50.73(a)(2)(v)(D)	
				Specify in Abstract below or in NRC Form 366A

12. LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER

NAME Kathryn Mews	TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code) 651.388.1121, extension 7384
----------------------	--

13. COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANU-FACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX	CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANU-FACTURER	REPORTABLE TO EPIX

14. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED				15. EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES (If yes, complete 15. EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE). <input type="radio"/> NO				MONTH	DAY	YEAR
				3	20	2010

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines)

On September 13, 2009, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), doing business as Xcel Energy, documented an apparent breach between the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) 11 and 12 Battery Rooms. The two Battery Rooms are separated by an eight inch concrete block wall that contains a penetration seal. The penetration seal consists of a five-inch and one-inch conduit filled and sealed to form a fire barrier. The five-inch conduit was breached to run temporary cable for maintenance work. An evaluation completed on October 28, 2009, concluded that the as-found condition was a breached fire barrier, such that the required degree of separation for redundant safe shutdown trains was lacking. Thus, this event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B) as an unanalyzed condition.

NSPM is performing a causal evaluation for this event. When the evaluation is complete, NSPM will submit a supplement to this LER.

**LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION**

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 1	05000 282	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	2 of 3
		09	-- 07	-- 0	

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Battery Rooms 11 and 12 are separated by an eight-inch concrete block wall that contains a penetration seal. The penetration seal contains two conduits (a five-inch conduit and a one-inch conduit) that are filled and sealed to form a fire barrier. On September 13, 2009, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), doing business as Xcel Energy, documented the breach between the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) 11 and 12 Battery¹ Rooms.

The five-inch conduit was breached on September 3, 2009 to run temporary cable for maintenance between the two Battery Rooms. The conduit end caps and thermal insulating wool fill were removed. The temporary cable was run through the conduit which resulted in an unanalyzed fire barrier. On September 13, 2009, PINGP documented the breach between the 11 and 12 Battery Rooms.

An evaluation of the as-found configuration completed on October 28, 2009, determined that the as-found configuration met the reportability requirement of 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B).

EVENT ANALYSIS

The as-found configuration was a breached fire barrier, such that the required degree of separation for redundant safe shutdown trains was lacking, thus, this event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(ii)(B) as an unanalyzed condition that significantly degraded plant safety. The PINGP fire protection program requires compensatory measures be taken for missing or breached fire barriers (specifically, establish a fire patrol in the affected fire areas). A formal fire patrol was not established for the breached fire barrier. No actual loss of function occurred as a result of the as-found condition, thus the condition was not a safety system functional failure.

SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE

The concrete block wall forms a fire barrier with a three-hour rating. Fire detection equipment on both sides of the fire barrier was operable during the breach. Should a fire have occurred on either side of the fire barrier, it would have been detected in its early stages by the fire detection equipment. This would have initiated a prompt response by the PINGP fire brigade. It is considered that fire detection and plant response along with the as-found barriers would have mitigated the potential adverse effects to the redundant equipment. There were no actual consequences to the health and safety of the public.

¹ EIS System Code: EI

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)
TEXT CONTINUATION

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 1	05000282	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	3 of 3
		09	-- 07	-- 0	

TEXT (If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A) (17)

CAUSE

NSPM is performing a causal evaluation for this event. When the evaluation is complete NSPM will submit a supplement to this LER.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Upon discovery, NSPM initiated hourly fire watches to patrol the five-inch fire penetration seal until the maintenance work was complete.

As part of the causal evaluation for this event, NSPM may identify additional corrective actions that will be included in the planned supplement to this LER.

PREVIOUS SIMILAR EVENTS

A review of Licensee Event Reports for PINGP since 2004 found one similar event where a fire barrier was found to have been breached without compensatory measures. The event was documented in LER 1-07-03 (Unanalyzed Condition due to Breached Fire Barrier).