



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

January 27, 2010

Mr. Mark A. Schimmel
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company - Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089-9642

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 –
CLOSEOUT OF GENERIC LETTER 2008-01 “MANAGING GAS
ACCUMULATION IN EMERGENCY CORE COOLING, DECAY HEAT
REMOVAL AND CONTAINMENT SPRAY SYSTEMS” (TAC NOS. MD7866
AND MD7867)

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

On January 11, 2008, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 2008-01, “Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems” (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML072910759). The stated purpose of GL 2008-01 was (a) to request addressees to submit information to demonstrate that the subject systems are in compliance with the current licensing and design bases and applicable regulatory requirements, and that suitable design, operational, and testing control measures are in place for maintaining this compliance; and (b) to collect the requested information to determine if additional regulatory action is required.

GL 2008-01 requested that licensees provide the following information within 9 months of the date of the GL:

- (a) A description of the results of evaluations that were performed pursuant to requested actions specified in the GL. This description should provide sufficient information to demonstrate that you are or will be in compliance with the quality assurance criteria in Sections III, V, XI, XVI, and XVII of Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 50, and the licensing basis and operating license as those requirements apply to the subject systems;
- (b) A description of all corrective actions, including plant, programmatic, procedure, and licensing basis modifications that you determined were necessary to assure compliance with these regulations; and
- (c) A statement regarding which corrective actions were completed, the schedule for completing the remaining corrective actions, and the basis for that schedule.

In your letters dated April 10, September 15, and October 14, 2008, January 30, September 28, and November 24, 2009 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML081020368, ML082600139, ML082880483, ML090300705, ML092730109, and ML093280925, respectively), you provided information in response to the GL. The NRC staff has reviewed the submitted information and has concluded that for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (PINGP), your

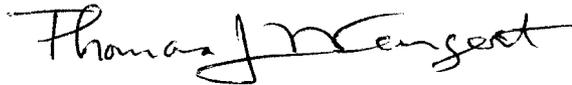
response to the GL is acceptable. Consequently, your GL response is considered closed and no further information or action is requested of you.

Notwithstanding, the NRC's Region III staff may decide to perform (and would contact you to schedule) an inspection using Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/177, "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal, and Containment Spray Systems (NRC Generic Letter 2008-01)" (ADAMS Accession No. ML082950666). The TI 2515/177 is confirmatory in nature in that it directs NRC inspectors to selectively verify that the licensee has implemented or is in the process of acceptably implementing the commitments, modifications, and programmatically- controlled actions described in the licensee's response to GL 2008-01, and the plant-specific information supports a conclusion that subject systems operability is reasonably ensured.

The NRC staff recognizes that, in your letter dated September 15, 2008, the PINGP licensee committed to "submit results of the evaluations of the walkdowns of Unit 1 containment and RHR pits 90 days following the completion of 1R26," and that you have not yet provided this submittal. The NRC staff considers the walkdowns to be confirmatory in nature.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-4037.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Wengert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas J. Wengert, 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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/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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*via memo dated 12/23/09

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