



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

February 19, 2010

Mr. Mark A. Schimmel
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 –
ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: MEASUREMENT
UNCERTAINTY RECAPTURE POWER UPRATE APPLICATION (TAC NOS.
ME3015 AND ME3016)

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

By letter dated December 28, 2009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML093650061), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM) submitted a license amendment request for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The proposed amendment would increase the licensed rated thermal power (RTP) as a result of a measurement uncertainty recapture power uprate. The proposed change would increase the RTP by 1.64 percent from 1650 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 1677 MWt. NSPM's request is based on reduced uncertainty in the RTP measurement achieved by installation of a Caldon Leading Edge Flow Meter Checkplus™ System used to measure feedwater flow and temperature.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate

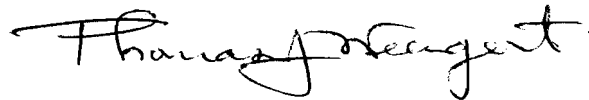
M. Schimmel

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acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Wengert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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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- 2 -

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/RA/

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