



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

February 19, 2010

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

**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS:
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

In a letter dated August 18, 2009 (L-XE-09-010), Xcel Energy requested the NRC schedule initial operator license examinations in March 2010 and May 2012 for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP). We have scheduled an initial license operator examination to start on March 15, 2010, at PINGP. We have scheduled an examination to begin on May 14, 2012. On-site validation of the examinations will occur approximately three weeks prior to the start of each examination. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

We understand that your staff will develop the examinations unless we determine it is necessary for the NRC to develop an examination in which case, we will notify you immediately upon discovery of that need. Because your letter indicated that there were more than nine applicants being considered for each of these examinations, the examinations were each scheduled for two weeks. Please inform us if the number of candidates declines below ten for any examination as this will impact the examination schedule. Also, please inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you need to change the scheduled dates for the examinations.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the initial examination informing them of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination dates, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Mr. Dell McNeil of my staff at 630-829-9737.

M. Schimmel

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306
License Nos. DPR-42; DPR-60

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M. Schimmel

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