



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

March 4, 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: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION APPROVAL

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the final arrangements for the upcoming operator licensing examinations at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant.

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed its review of the operator license applications in connection with this examination and separately provided a list of approved applicants to Mr. James Sternisha, Training Manager. Note that any examination waivers and application denials have been addressed in separate correspondence.

The NRC has approved the subject examinations and hereby authorizes you to administer the written examinations in accordance with Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," one day during the week of March 22, 2010. The NRC staff will administer the operating tests during the weeks of March 15 and 22, 2010. This examination has undergone extensive review by my staff and representatives responsible for licensed operator training at your facility. Based on this review, I concluded that the examination meets the guidelines of NUREG-1021 for content, operational, and discrimination validity. By administering this examination, you also agree that it meets NUREG-1021 guidelines, and is appropriate for measuring the qualifications of licensed operator applicants at your facility. If you determine that this examination is not appropriate for licensing operators at your facility, do not administer the examination and contact me at 630-829-9707.

Please contact your Chief Examiner, Mr. Charles Zoia at 630-829-9863, if you have any questions or identify any errors or changes in the license level (RO or SRO) or type of examination (partial or complete written examination and/or operating test) specified for each applicant.

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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