



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 1, 2009

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 AND 2**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

On August 20, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Prairie Island Generating Plant, Unit 1 and 2. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Prairie Island Unit 1, was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on two inspection findings (one in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone and one in the Public Radiation Safety cornerstone) being classified as having low to moderate safety significance (White). The White finding in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone, from the fourth quarter of 2008, involved failure of the turbine driven auxiliary feedwater (TDAFW) pump to operate subsequent to a valid start signal. The other White inspection finding in the Public Radiation Safety cornerstone, from the first quarter of 2009, involved a radioactive material shipment from your facility that did not conform to the applicable Department of Transportation (DOT) regulatory requirements when it arrived at the shipping destination. Plant performance for Prairie Island Unit 2 for the most recent quarter was also within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on one inspection finding in the Public Radiation Safety cornerstone being classified as having low to moderate safety significance (White) as discussed above. Although plant performance of Unit 2

was within the Regulatory Response column, the significance of a preliminary White finding for inadequate design of the component cooling water system (IR 2009010) is still under review as part of the Significance Determination Process. This issue, when finalized, may change our assessment of your plant's safety performance.

On July 13, we were notified by your staff of your readiness for the NRC to conduct a supplemental inspection to review the actions taken to address the White finding for the TDAFW pump issue. We began a supplemental inspection (95001) in response to this White finding on August 31, 2009. We also plan to conduct another supplemental inspection (95001) in response to the White finding in the Public Radiation Safety cornerstone. Please notify us of your readiness to conduct this supplemental inspection. These supplemental inspections are in addition to Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

In addition, the staff has identified a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) in the area of human performance (HP) with cross-cutting themes in the aspects of systematic process (H.1(a)), conservative assumptions (H.1(b)), procedural adequacy (H.2(c)), and procedural compliance (H.4(b)). During this assessment period, there were 25 findings documented with cross-cutting aspects in the HP area. Of these 25 findings, four shared a common cross-cutting aspect of systematic process, six findings with conservative assumptions, five findings with procedural adequacy, and four findings with procedural compliance. The SCCI will remain open until all cross-cutting themes have been cleared in the area of HP. To clear each theme, we will assess whether your corrective actions have resulted in a positive sustainable improvement in the area and will consider the number of findings in the theme. We are requesting to meet with you to discuss the adverse trend in human performance. A public meeting will accommodate this discussion at an agreed upon time and location. Please contact us within 30 days of receipt of this letter to discuss arrangements for this meeting.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through December 31, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the End-of-Cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

M. Schimmel

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If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact John (Jack) B. Giessner at 630-829-9619 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

K. Steven West, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306; 72-010
License Nos. DPR-42; DPR-60; SNM-2506

Enclosure: Prairie Island Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: D. Koehl, Chief Nuclear Officer
J. Anderson, Regulatory Affairs Manager
P. Glass, Assistant General Counsel
Nuclear Asset Manager
J. Stine, State Liaison Officer, Minnesota Department of Health
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Indian Community
Administrator, Goodhue County Courthouse
Commissioner, Minnesota Department
of Commerce
Manager, Environmental Protection Division
Office of the Attorney General of Minnesota
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator,
Dakota County Law Enforcement Center
Council Administrator
President, Prairie Island Tribal Council
Goodhue County Sheriff
Director, Pierce County Emergency
Management Agency
Chair, Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners
Mayor of Red Wing
Director, Goodhue County Emergency
Management Agency
Chair, Goodhue County Board of Commissioners
Pierce County Sheriff
Dakota County Sheriff
G. Mortensen, INPO

Letter to M. Schimmel from K. Steven West dated September 1, 2009.

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 1 AND 2

DISTRIBUTION:

Susan Bagley
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RidsNRRPMPrairieIsland Resource
RidsNrrDirslpob Resource
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DRPIII
DRSIII
Patricia Buckley
Tammy Tomczak
[ROPreports Resource](#)

M. Schimmel

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See Previous Concurrences

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OFFICE	RIII	RIII	RIII	
NAME	Tran:ntp*	JGiessner*	KSWest	
DATE	08/25/09	08/25/09	08/31/09	

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Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2009 - 12/31/2010

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI ENG - INSERVICE INSPECTION & TI-172 REVISION 1		1
09/14/2009	09/26/2009	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
09/14/2009	09/26/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		SUP95001 - SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION 95001 - TDAFP		3
08/31/2009	09/04/2009	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
09/21/2009	09/25/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
09/21/2009	09/25/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems	
10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION		1
11/01/2009	11/30/2009	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		OL PREP - PR. ISLAND INIT PREP MARCH/2010		3
03/15/2010	03/19/2010	W90224	OL - INITIAL EXAM - APRIL 2010 - PRAI	
		OL EXAM - PR. ISLAND INIT EXAM - APRIL 2010		3
04/12/2010	04/23/2010	W90224	OL - INITIAL EXAM - APRIL 2010 - PRAI	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
04/26/2010	04/30/2010	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
04/26/2010	04/30/2010	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
		BI ENG - ENGINEERING INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
04/26/2010	05/28/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation	
		BI ENG - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION		6
06/28/2010	07/30/2010	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
07/26/2010	07/30/2010	IP 2515/173	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative	
07/26/2010	07/30/2010	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
08/09/2010	08/13/2010	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
08/09/2010	08/13/2010	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
08/09/2010	08/13/2010	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
08/09/2010	08/13/2010	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	

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		BI RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION	1
08/09/2010	08/13/2010	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		BI EP	- EP EXERCISE / PI VERIFICATION	3
08/23/2010	08/27/2010	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
08/23/2010	08/27/2010	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
08/23/2010	08/27/2010	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
08/23/2010	08/27/2010	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
		BI RP	- RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION	1
11/15/2010	11/19/2010	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment	