

June 15, 2011

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: NRC OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT NO. 3-2009-012

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

This letter refers to an investigation conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations (OI) to determine if an engineer working under contract at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant was the subject of discrimination for raising safety concerns. Based on the evidence developed during the investigation, we did not substantiate the issue. The synopsis from the OI report of investigation is enclosed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact an NRC Region III Office Allegation Coordinator by calling (800) 522-3025. The NRC Region III Office Allegation Coordinators are Jim Heller, Paul Pelke, Magdalena Gryglak, and Sarah Bakhsh.

In accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if any, will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

You should note that final NRC documents, including the final OI report, may be made available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) subject to redaction of information pursuant to the FOIA. Requests under the FOIA should be made in accordance with 10 CFR 9.23, Request for Records. The instructions for making a request for information under the FOIA are accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/foia/foia-request.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA by Kenneth G. O'Brien Acting for/

Steven A. Reynolds, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure:
OI Synopsis

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*See previous concurrence

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OFFICE	RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII
NAME	Heller*	Stone*	Langan **	Lougheed for Orth	O'Brien for Reynolds
DATE	04/18/11	05/24/11	06/06/11	06/14/11	06/15/11

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** For permission to release OI synopsis.

SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations (OI), Region III (RIII), on January 23, 2009, to determine if a contract Engineer at the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant was discriminated against for raising safety concerns.

Based on the evidence developed, this investigation did not substantiate the allegation that a contract Engineer was discriminated against for raising safety concerns.