



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

December 21, 2011

EA-11-203

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: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT – NOTICE OF  
REGULATORY CONFERENCE**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

This letter confirms our plans as discussed between members of our staffs to hold a regulatory conference to discuss a finding preliminarily determined to be Greater-than-Green. The details regarding the issue was conveyed to you in our letter dated December 7, 2011, and its accompanying inspection report. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. CT on January 18, 2012, at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III office, 2443 Warrenville Rd, Suite 210, Lisle, IL 60532. This meeting is closed to the public because it will involve security-related information discussion.

The regulatory conference is being held to obtain information to assist the NRC in determining the safety significance of the finding and apparent violation detailed in the above letter and inspection report. The conference will provide an opportunity for you to provide your perspective on the facts and assumptions used by the NRC to arrive at the finding, your assessment of the significance of the finding, your detailed corrective actions, including any root cause evaluation, and any other information that you believe the NRC should take into consideration in making an enforcement decision.

The NRC would appreciate receiving any supporting documents by no later than January 12, 2012, in order to make the conference more effective and efficient.

Following the conference, you will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of 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).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response, if any. This practice will ensure that your response will not be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system, ADAMS. If Safeguards Information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please provide the level of protection described in 10 CFR 73.21. Otherwise, mark your entire response "Security-Related Information-Withhold Under 10 CFR 2.390" and follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1).

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, I can be reached at (630) 829-9757.

Sincerely,

***/RA by J. Maynen for/***

Richard A. Skokowski, Chief  
Plant Support Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

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