

**2012 PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT**

**INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION**

**MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

May 10, 2012

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 Station.

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. Andrew Pullam, Training Director. Note that any examination waivers and application denials have been addressed in separate correspondence.

The NRC will administer the written examinations and operating tests in accordance with Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," during the weeks of May 14 and 21, 2012. This examination has undergone extensive review by my staff and representatives responsible for licensed operator training at your facility. Based on this review, I have concluded that the examination meets the guidelines of NUREG-1021 for content, operational, and discrimination validity. If you determine that this examination is not appropriate for licensing operators at your facility, please contact me at 630-829-9731.

Please contact your Chief Examiner, Dell McNeil, at 630-829-9737, 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.

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 (PARS) component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access

M. Schimmel

-2-

and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the Electronic Reading Room page of the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Charles Phillips, Acting Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

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M. Schimmel

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and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the Electronic Reading Room page of the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

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Charles Phillips, Acting Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306  
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Letter to Mr. Mark A. Schimmel from Mr. Charles Phillips dated May 10, 2012

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION APPROVAL

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**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

August 16, 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: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2  
CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

In a telephone conversation on August 12, 2011, between Mr. T. Ouret and Mr. R. Baker, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 during the weeks of May 14 and May 21, 2012. In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of April 16, 2012.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, the staff of the NRC will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." Your staff will be given the opportunity to review the examinations during the week of April 16, 2012.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 by September 16, 2011. We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in receiving the required reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

Appendix E to NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any) (OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018. The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of these information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5 F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to [INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV](mailto:INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV); and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may neither conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Electronic Reading Room page of the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. T. Ouret has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. D. McNeil at 630/829-9737, or me at 630/829-9707.

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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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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Letter to Mark A. Schimmel from Hironori Peterson dated August 16, 2011

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

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**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.

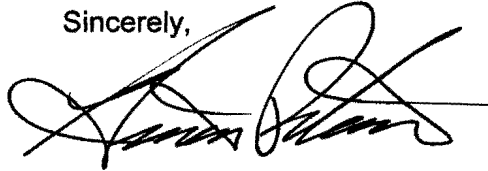
A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 120 days prior to the initial examination informing them of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm 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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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).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hironori Peterson', written in a cursive style.

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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Sincerely,

*IRA*

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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cc: Pete  
Deel

414 Nicollet Mall - MP4  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

August 18, 2009

L-XE-09-010  
RIS 2009-11

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,  
Units 1 and 2  
Dockets 50-282, 50-306  
License Nos. DPR-42 and DPR-60

772012

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant  
Docket 50-263  
Renewed License No. DPR-22

Planned Initial License Operator Examination Data

As requested by NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2009-11, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations", dated July 16, 2009, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, hereby submits the planned initial licensed operator examination data from calendar years 2010 through 2013 for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant and Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. Enclosed are the corresponding NRC Form 536s for each site which provides the estimated number of applicants to be tested and the proposed primary and alternate dates for the examinations.

Regulatory Commitments

This letter makes no new commitments or changes to any existing commitments.

Gabor Salamon  
Director, Nuclear Licensing and Emergency Preparedness  
Northern States Power Company - Minnesota

cc: Administrator, Region III, USNRC  
Project Manager, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, USNRC, NRR  
Resident Inspector, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, USNRC  
Project Manager, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, USNRC, NRR  
Resident Inspector, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, USNRC

Rec'd via EOE

AUG 20 2009

**ENCLOSURE**

**Planned Initial License Operator Examination Data for Monticello Nuclear Generating  
Plant and Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2**

**OPERATOR LICENSING  
EXAMINATION DATA**

Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (1-6 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to [infocollects@nrc.gov](mailto:infocollects@nrc.gov), and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

FACILITY

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

NRC REGION

3

**A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS	1	0	0	1
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS	0	0	0	0

**B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013
NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS	5	0	0	8
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - INSTANT	11	0	0	5
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - UPGRADE	0	0	0	1
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - LIMITED	0	0	0	0
<b>PROPOSED DATES</b>				
PRIMARY DATE	12/05/2010			01/13/2013
ALTERNATE DATE	12/12/2010			01/06/2013

**C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY 2010				CY 2011			
	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0

**OPERATOR LICENSING  
EXAMINATION DATA**

Estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary information collection request: 1 hour. This information collection is used to plan budgets and resources for operator examinations. Send comments regarding burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by internet e-mail to [infocollections@nrc.gov](mailto:infocollections@nrc.gov), and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0131), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

FACILITY <b>Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant</b>	NRC REGION <b>3</b>
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**A. PROPOSED EXAMINATION PREPARATION SCHEDULE**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF LICENSEE-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS	1	0	1	0
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF NRC-PREPARED EXAMINATIONS	0	0	0	0

**B. INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY 2010	CY 2011	CY 2012	CY 2013
NUMBER OF REACTOR OPERATORS	7	0	6	0
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - INSTANT	4	0	3	0
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - UPGRADE	1	0	3	0
NUMBER OF SENIOR REACTOR OPERATORS - LIMITED	0	0	0	0
<b>PROPOSED DATES</b>				
PRIMARY DATE	03/15/2010		05/14/2012	
ALTERNATE DATE	03/22/2010		05/07/2012	

**C. PROPOSED GENERIC FUNDAMENTALS EXAMINATION (GFE) SCHEDULE**

PROPOSED NUMBER	CY 2010				CY 2011			
	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0