



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

January 14, 2013

Mr. Jim Lynch
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. 3-2012-013

Dear Mr. Lynch:

This refers to an investigation conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Investigations (OI) to determine whether (1) an employee at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant was subjected to discrimination for reporting a safety concern; and (2) the Site Vice President and/or the Access Manager interfered with the objective review of the information upon which the employee's unfavorable termination of unescorted access authorization was based, and interfered with the impartial and independent internal management review of the employee's termination appeal. Based on the evidence developed during the investigation, we did not substantiate the allegations. 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 reports, 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

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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/

Kenneth Riemer, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2

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

Enclosure:
OI Synopsis

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Sincerely,

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Kenneth Riemer, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2

Docket Nos. 50-282, 50-306
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Enclosure:
OI Synopsis

bcc w/encl: AMS File No. RIII-2012-A-0002

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* For permission to release OI synopsis. ** The 3-week e-mail has expired.

OI SYNOPSIS

This investigation was initiated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations (OI), Region III (RIII), on March 12, 2012, to determine whether: (1) an employee at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (Prairie Island) was subjected to discrimination for reporting a safety concern; and (2) the Site Vice President and/or the Access Manager interfered with the objective review of the information upon which the employee's unfavorable termination of unescorted access authorization was based, and interfered with the impartial and independent internal management review of the employee's termination appeal.

Allegation 1: Based upon the evidence developed, this investigation did not substantiate the allegation that an employee at the Prairie Island was subjected to discrimination for reporting a safety concern.

Allegation 2: Based upon the evidence developed, this investigation did not substantiate the allegation that the Site Vice President and/or the Access Manager interfered with the objective review of the information upon which the employee's termination of unescorted access authorization was based, nor interfered with the impartial and independent internal management review of the employee's termination appeal.