



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

September 1, 2015

Mr. Kevin Davison
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000282/2015005;
05000306/2015005)**

Dear Mr. Davison:

On August 13, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The NRC determined that overall, Prairie Island Units 1 and 2 operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance at Prairie Island Units 1 and 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections for both units at your facility.

In the mid-cycle assessment letter dated September 2, 2014 (ML14245A201), the NRC opened a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI¹) associated with the aspect of Documentation (H.7). This assessment letter stated that the SCCI would remain open until the number of findings with a cross-cutting aspect of H.7 is reduced, the corrective actions taken to mitigate the cross-cutting theme prove effective, and sustained performance improvement is observed in the human performance area. To address the SCCI, your staff performed a root cause evaluation and developed corrective actions. Since the last assessment period, the associated corrective actions have been completed and there have been no findings associated with the H.7 cross-cutting aspect over the last four quarters. Therefore, the SCCI will be closed.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2017. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the second half of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised

¹ The term "substantial cross-cutting issue" was changed to "cross cutting issue (CCI)" in the most recent revision to Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

As discussed during a previous conversation between us, the NRC and Prairie Island will meet publicly to discuss the station's efforts associated with improving the corrective action program. Specific details associated with this meeting will be issued in a separate correspondence.

The NRC also plans to conduct Inspection Procedure 71111.05XT "Fire Protection – NFPA 805 (Triennial)" at your facility.

In response to the accident at Fukushima, the Commission issued Order EA-12-049, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events," which requires licensees to develop, implement, and maintain guidance and strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, containment, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities following a beyond-design-basis external event. Additionally, the Commission issued Order EA-12-051, "Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Reliable Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation," which requires licensees to have a reliable means of remotely monitoring wide-range Spent Fuel Pool levels to support effective prioritization of event mitigation and recovery actions in the event of a beyond-design-basis external event. The NRC is conducting audits of licensee efforts towards compliance with these Orders. The audit has been completed for the first unit at Prairie Island, and the information gathered will aid staff in development of the ultimate Safety Evaluation for the site. After the NRC staff receives the Final Compliance letter for the site, the Final Safety Evaluation will be issued. Then, the NRC staff will confirm through inspections the full implementation of the orders mentioned above performing Temporary Instruction 191 "Inspection of the Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and Spent Fuel Pool Instrumentation Orders and Emergency Preparedness Communication/Staffing/Multi-Unit Dose Assessment Plans."

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

K. Davison

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Please contact me at 630-829-9628 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kenneth Riemer, Chief
Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure:
Prarie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Inspection Plan

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Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2015 - 12/31/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			BI ENG - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION		6
1, 2	08/03/2015	09/04/2015	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	08/31/2015	09/04/2015	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
1	08/31/2015	09/04/2015	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			BI ISI - ISI UNIT 2 INSPECTION		2
2	10/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	11/02/2015	11/06/2015	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			STRIKE P - STRIKE PREPARATION		1
1, 2	12/01/2015	12/31/2015	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
			ENG BI - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION		4
1, 2	01/11/2016	02/12/2016	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	02/01/2016	02/05/2016	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	03/28/2016	04/01/2016	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	03/28/2016	04/01/2016	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			PIR - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		4
1	06/06/2016	06/24/2016	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
			OL PREP - INIT PREP/MAY 2016		2
1	05/02/2016	05/06/2016	W90349	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2016 MAY-JUN - PR. ISLAND	
			OL EXAM - INIT EXAM/MAY-JUNE 2016		3
1	05/30/2016	06/10/2016	W90349	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2016 MAY-JUN - PR. ISLAND	
			BI EP - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION/ PI VERIFICATION		5
1, 2	06/27/2016	07/01/2016	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
1, 2	06/27/2016	07/01/2016	IP 7111406	Drill Evaluation	
1, 2	06/27/2016	07/01/2016	IP 7111408	Exercise Evaluation – Scenario Review	
1, 2	06/27/2016	07/01/2016	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			ISFSI - ISFSI OPERATION AT A SITE INSPECTION		2
1	07/01/2016	07/29/2016	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2015 - 12/31/2017

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	08/15/2016	08/19/2016	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
1	08/15/2016	08/19/2016	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	09/26/2016	09/30/2016	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
1	09/26/2016	09/30/2016	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION ON UNIT 1		2
1	10/17/2016	11/17/2016	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			BI HS - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		2
1, 2	11/14/2016	11/18/2016	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	01/30/2017	02/03/2017	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	03/13/2017	03/17/2017	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			BI MODS - TRIENNIAL MODIFICATIONS/50.59 INSPECTION		3
1, 2	08/07/2017	08/25/2017	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			BI EP - EP BASELINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		1
1, 2	09/11/2017	09/15/2017	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
1, 2	09/11/2017	09/15/2017	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
1, 2	09/11/2017	09/15/2017	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
1, 2	09/11/2017	09/15/2017	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			OL-RQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
1, 2	09/11/2017	09/15/2017	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION UNIT 2		1
2	09/29/2017	10/29/2017	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			OL PREP - INIT EXAM/DEC 2017		3
1	10/30/2017	11/03/2017	W90360	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2017 OCT-DEC - PRAIRIE ISLAND	
			OL EXAM - INIT EXAM/DEC 2017		3
1	12/04/2017	12/15/2017	W90360	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2017 OCT-DEC - PRAIRIE ISLAND	

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