



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

November 13, 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: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION**

Dear Mr. Davison:

In a telephone conversation on October 30, 2015, between Mr. S. Serassin, Senior Operations Instructor, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, and Mr. D. McNeil, Senior Operations Engineer, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant during the weeks of May 30, and June 6, 2016. In addition, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of May 2, 2016.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 10 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the examination outlines by March 7, 2016. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201, will be due by April 4, 2016. Pursuant to Title 10, Section 55.40(b)(3), of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations and tests before they are submitted to the Commission for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready-to-use. 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 examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

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.

After you have been notified by the NRC Chief Examiner or Branch Chief that operator licenses have been issued, please direct any inquiries concerning a formal presentation of certificates to this office. Our goal is to have the operator certificates available for your celebration. At least 1 month advance notice of your celebration arrangements would be appreciated to plan our senior manager attendance and process the certificates.

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 OMB, under approval number 3150-0018. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 500 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 on any aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch (T-6 F33), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to BJS1@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, an information collection, unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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K. Davison

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Serassin 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 630-829-9711.

Sincerely,

/RA Michael Bielby Acting for/

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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