



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

February 26, 2018

Mr. Scott Sharp
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089-9642

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

Dear Mr. Sharp:

In a telephone conversation on February 16, 2018, between Mr. R. Baker, Chief Examiner, and Mr. F. Collins, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Exam Developer, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant during the weeks of September 10 and 17, 2018. In addition, the NRC currently plans to make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of August 13, 2018.

As agreed during the telephone conversations, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 11 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, your staff agreed to and provided the operating test outlines by April 13, 2018. The NRC staff provided the written examination outline to Mr. F. Collins, NRC Exam Developer, on December 20, 2017. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201, will be due by June 29, 2018. Pursuant to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 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. Delays in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be cancelled or 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 along with any video/audio recordings of the dynamic operating tests, until the NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

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 waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Approval Number 3150-0090), at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. R. Baker to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB Approval Number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB Approval Number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the preliminary applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for receiving waiver or excusal requests is coincident with receipt of the operator license applications and medical certifications (30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final)), the requests should be submitted as early possible in the process (see 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensees to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398, "Personal Qualifications Statement-Licensee," or as directed by Mr. R. Baker, when contacting him to determine the method of submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

This letter contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by OMB, Approval Number 3150-0018.

The burden to the public for these voluntary information collections is estimated to average 2,250 hours per examination or response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching extra data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collections. You may submit comments on any aspect of the information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to FOIA, Privacy and Information Collections Branch (T-5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by electronic mail to infocollects.resource@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.

Public Protection Notification

The NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the document requesting or requiring the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number.

This letter will be made available for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC Public Document Room in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

S. Sharp

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Collins 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. R. Baker, at 630-829-9871, or me at 630-829-9834.

Sincerely,

/RA Randal Baker Acting for/

Robert J. Orlikowski, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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

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T. Wadley, Training Manager

Letter to Scott Sharp from Robert J. Orlikowski dated February 26, 2017

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