U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

Report No. 50-282/79-29; 50-306/79-23

Docket No. 50-282; 50-306 License No. DPR-42; DPR-60

Licensee: Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Facility Name: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1 and 2

Inspection At: Prairie Island Site, Red Wing, MN

Inspection Conducted: November 1-30, 1979

Inspector: C. D. Feierabend 12/27/79

Approved By: R. F. Warnick, Chief 12/28/79
Reactor Projects Section 2

Inspection Summary

Inspection on November 1-30, 1979 (Report No. 50-282/79-29; 50-306/79-23)
Areas Inspected: Routine resident inspection of plant operations, security, radioactive waste system, IE bulletins and circulars and observations of a fire drill. The inspection involved 46 inspector-hours by the resident inspector.
Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

*F. Tierney, Plant Manager
J. Brokaw, Plant Superintendent, Operations and Maintenance
E. Watzl, Plant Superintendent, Plant Engineering and Radiation Protection
A. Hunstad, Staff Engineer
R. Lindsey, Superintendent, Operations
D. Schuelke, Superintendent, Radiation Protection
S. Fehn, Senior Scheduling Engineer
D. Crago, Shift Supervisor
P. Ryan, Shift Supervisor
M. Balk, Shift Supervisor
J. Meath, Shift Supervisor

*Denotes attendance at exit interview.

2. General

Unit 2 operated routinely except for recovery from a reactor trip on November 14. The trip was caused by unplanned initiation of a pressurizer high level trip during calibration of level transmitters.

Unit 1 experienced motor failures in both feedwater pumps, one on November 5 and one on November 15. Power generation was about 64% from November 5-15 and from November 25-30, limited by the capacity of a single feedwater pump. The plant was maintained at hot shutdown from November 15-25 until the first pump motor was returned and reinstalled.

The inspector observed a fire drill conducted during the second shift on November 14. Operator response was good and the drill was successfully completed.

3. Plant Operations

The inspector reviewed plant operations including examination of selected operating logs, special orders, temporary memos, jumper and tagout logs for the month of November. Tours of the plant included walks through the various areas of the plant to observe operations and activities in progress; to inspect the status of monitoring instruments, to observe for adherence to radiation controls and fire protection rules, to check proper alignment of selected valves and equipment controls, and to review status of various alarmed annunciators with operators.

The inspector observed plant operations during offshifts and observed shift turnovers to verify that oncoming operators and supervisors were made aware of plant status.

The inspector observed control room operations during recovery from Unit 2 reactor trip on November 14. Recovery operations were conducted in accordance with approved procedures, and the plant was returned to power, however the power level was limited by axial flux difference due to the xenon transient, requiring power to be maintained below 50% for about 34 hours.

The inspector observed control room operations and operations in the turbine building following the Unit 1 trip caused by failure of the operating feedwater pump motor. All systems responded to loss of feedwater as designed, and the plant was placed in hot shutdown in accordance with approved procedures.

The inspector also reviewed annunciator status, recorder charts, surveillance records, and logs to verify that plant operations were maintained in accordance with Technical Specification requirements.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

4. Security

The inspector conducted periodic observations of access control, issuing badges, vehicle inspection, escorting, and communication checks.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

5. IE Bulletin Followup

For the IE Bulletins listed below the inspector verified that the written response was within the time period stated in the bulletin, that the written response included the information required to be reported, that licensee management forwarded copies of the written response to the appropriate onsite management representatives, and that informtion discussed in the licensee's written response was accurate. (Closed)

a. IEB No. 79-23, Potential failure of emergency diesel generator field exciter transformer.

b. IEB No. 79-24, Frozen lines.

6. IE Circular Followup

For the IE Circulars listed below, the inspector verified that the Circular was received by the licensee management, that a review for

applicability was performed, and that if the circular were applicable to the facility, appropriate corrective actions were taken or were scheduled to be taken. (Closed)

a. IEC 79-17, dated August 15, 1979
Related to control problem in SB-12 switches

b. IEC 79-18, dated September 10, 1979
Related to Target Rock safety relief valves.

c. IEC 79-20, dated September 24, 1979
Related to GTE Sylvania Relays.

7. Radioactive Waste System

The inspector observed operations associated with compaction and drumming of low level solid waste.

No items of concern were identified.

8. Exit Interview

The inspector attended an exit interview conducted by RIII inspectors J. R. Creed and T. J. Madeda on November 30, 1979.

The inspector conducted interim interviews and conducted an exit interview with Mr. Tierney at the conclusion of the inspection. The inspector discussed the scope and results of the inspection and stated that no items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

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