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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

May 18, 1979

Mr. R. F. Heishman, Chief
Reactor Operations and Nuclear Support Branch
Region III
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Heishman:

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Dockets No. 50-282 and No. 50-306

In response to your letter of April 25, 1979, which transmitted Inspection Reports No. 50-282/79-08 and No. 50-306/79-07, the following is offered:

Deficiency

Technical Specifications 4.16.A.1 and 4.16.A.2 became effective February 14, 1978, and require, respectively, that fire detectors exterior to primary containment be functionally tested once every six months and that the detector alarm circuits also be tested every six months.

Contrary to the above, the initial tests (SP1189) of the fire detectors and alarm circuits were not conducted until (December 28, 1978) approximately ten and one-half months after the technical specifications became effective.

Response

Before Tech Spec 4.16 became effective, a detector testing and calibration program had been established on a three-year basis for safety-related areas and five years for all others. When Tech Spec 4.16 was issued, in February, 1978, the group responsible for detector testing accelerated the testing frequency while new procedures were being developed to control testing. When the group was told issue of a new procedure was imminent, they abandoned the accelerated program and waited for the procedure. Through administrative error, the procedure was not reviewed and approved until September, 1978. As a result, only 60 percent of the required testing was done in the first six-month period.

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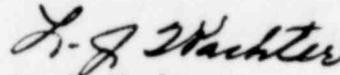
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When the surveillance coordinator received the approved new procedure, he scheduled it for January and July. In November, 1978, it was noted that the new procedure had not yet been performed. Records show the test was begun on November 8 and completed (final sign-off) on December 28. Successful completion proved operability during the period since February. Full compliance has been achieved.

Yours very truly,



L. J. Wachter
Vice President
Power Production and
System Operation

cc: Mr. G. Charnoff

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