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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

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Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Docket No. 50-282 Licensing Nos. DPR-42
50-306 DPR-60

Containment Purge and Vent System Isolation Logic

- Ref: (a) Letter from A Schwencer, Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #1, USNRC, to L O Mayer, NSP, dated October 29, 1979, "Containment Purging and Venting During Normal Plant Operation".
- (b) Letter from L O Mayer, NSP, to Director of NRR, USNRC, dated November 14, 1979, "Demonstration of Containment Purge Valve Operability".
- (c) Letter from L O Mayer, NSP, to Director of NRR, USNRC, dated March 17, 1980, "Additional Information Concerning Containment Purge and Vent System".

Reference (a) transmitted the Interim NRC Staff Position related to containment purge and vent valve operation pending resolution of isolation valve operability questions. Reference (b) contained our commitment to keep containment purge and vent valves closed when the associated reactor is above cold shutdown until such time as valve operability under accident conditions can be demonstrated. These valves have remained closed above cold shutdown since June of 1979.

Following submittal of the information contained in Reference (c), we determined that our containment purge and vent valve isolation reset circuitry does not meet item 2(b) of the Interim NRC Staff Position related to containment purge and vent valve operation. The purpose of this letter is to document our commitment to perform plant modifications to satisfy item 2 (b), as well as the rest of the Staff's Interim Position, prior to resuming purging on an "as low as achievable" basis.

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Progress in resolving this issue with the Staff has been delayed due to the heavy requirements placed on our technical staff in recent months by TMI Action Plan modifications, environmental qualification reviews, and fire protection modifications. Each of these issues has associated with it completion dates mandated by the Commission. These issues have, as a result, been given priority in the allocation of our technical resources.

We are now reviewing in detail the containment purge and vent valve reset circuitry and will provide the NRC Staff with a description of proposed modifications to satisfy item 2(b) within approximately six weeks. We have also been informed by the valve vendor that an analysis of valve operability under accident conditions is nearing completion and should be available for NRC Staff review early next month. Purging, on an "as low as achievable" basis, will not be resumed until:

- a. The containment ventilation logic modifications have been completed and found acceptable by the NRC Staff.
- b. The evaluation of containment purge and vent valve operability has been completed and found acceptable by the NRC Staff.

Please contact us if you require further information or if you have any questions related to our proposed resolution of this issue.

L.O. Mayer

L O Mayer, PE
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/DMM/bd

cc J. G. Keppler
G Charnoff
NRC Resident Inspector