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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 2 7 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: W. Johnston, Chief

Core Performance Branch, DSI

THRU:

Robert A. Clark, Chief

Operating Reactors Branch #3, DL

FROM:

Robert E. Martin, Project Manager

Operating Reactors Branch #3, DL

SUBJECT:

USE OF TOPROD FUEL IN PRAIRIE ISLAND UNIT 1, CYCLE 7

The attached letter from Northern States Power Company informs us that they are going to use a new fuel design and advises us that in their view there are no issues associated with use of this fuel that require prior NRC review and approval.

Does the Core Performance Branch agree at this point in time, with the licensee's planned approach? If CPB disagrees with their approach it is requested that you identify all areas needing review and resolution prior to authorizing use of the subject fuel. We call your attention to this matter now so that any matters requiring attention may be resolved in a timely manner that will not impact the startup of Prairie Island 1 in September 1981 (Cycle 7).

Please advise.

Robert E. Martin, Project Manager Operating Reactors Branch #3. DL

Attachment: As stated