



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

MAY 06 1994

Docket No. 50-282  
Docket No. 50-306

Northern States Power Company  
ATTN: Mr. D. D. Antony  
Vice President, Nuclear  
Generation  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Antony:

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Messrs. M. Dapas, R. Bywater, and G. Pirtle of this office, from March 5 through April 22, 1994, of activities at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, authorized by NRC Operating Licenses No. DPR-42 and No. DPR-60, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. M. D. Wadley and other members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The enclosed copy of our inspection report identifies areas examined during the inspection. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel.

During this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The violation cited in Item A of the enclosed Notice regarded inadequate corrective action to prevent recurrence for a previously issued violation involving the removal of essential support equipment from service. This violation is of particular concern because it indicates that you have been ineffective in conveying to selected staff the importance of essential support equipment and its impact on the operability of parent components. We will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of your corrective action to finally resolve this issue.

The violation cited in Item B of the enclosed Notice regarded an inadequate procedure for operation of the cooling water system pumps during post-maintenance testing, resulting in an engineered safety features component actuation. The resident inspectors have reviewed your corrective actions in response to this violation and have concluded that you have taken appropriate action to address this issue. Therefore, no response is required with respect to Item B of the enclosed Notice.

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In addition to those activities discussed above, which are cited in the enclosed Notice, certain of your other activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements. One violation involved the failure to perform a fitness-for-duty (FFD) evaluation prior to granting unescorted access to a contract employee who had a positive FFD test result on record. Another violation involved the inoperability of a Technical Specification-required noble gas, radiation monitor. However, as described in the enclosed inspection report, you identified these violations. Therefore, the violations will not be subject to enforcement action because your efforts in identifying and correcting the violations met the criteria specified in Section VII.B.2 of the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy, 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C).

Notwithstanding your performance in the areas involving violations, some strengths were identified during this inspection period. Your decision to reduce power and take Unit 2 offline to effect repairs to the electro-hydraulic control system, thereby eliminating the possibility of a turbine trip/reactor trip, reflected a conservative operating philosophy. Your recent efforts in the area of outage planning and management to incorporate the lessons learned from your last Unit 2 refueling outage were also considered a strength.

During this inspection period, we concluded our review of your corrective actions for the February 20, 1992, interruption of decay heat removal event. Your actions to address the various performance related issues associated with this event have been comprehensive and have resulted in improvements in the areas of procedures, hardware, management, and training.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response to Item A. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions, and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

*"Public"*

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by T.O. Martin for*  
Edward G. Greenman, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

- 1. Notice of Violation
- 2. Inspection Report  
No. 50-282/94003;  
50-306/94003(DRP)

cc w/enclosure:

- E. L. Watzl, Site Manager,  
Prairie Island Site
- M. Wadley, Plant Manager  
OC/LFDCB
- Resident Inspector, RIII Prairie  
Island
- Resident Inspector, RIII Monticello
- John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,  
Nuclear Engineer, MPCA
- State Liaison Officer, State  
of Minnesota
- State Liaison Officer, State  
of Wisconsin
- Prairie Island, LPM, NRR
- S. Stein, SRS

bcc: D. Funk, RIII  
Public

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Greenman

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MAY 06 1994

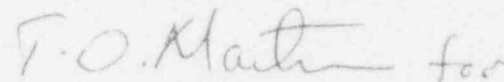
Northern States Power

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Edward G. Greenman, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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M. Wadley, Plant Manager  
OC/LFDCB  
Resident Inspector, RIII Prairie  
    Island  
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John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,  
    Nuclear Engineer, MPCA  
State Liaison Officer, State  
    of Minnesota  
State Liaison Officer, State  
    of Wisconsin  
Prairie Island, LPM, NRR  
S. Stein, SRS