



Northern States Power Company

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January 4, 1991

U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT  
Docket Nos. 50-282 License Nos. DPR-42  
50-306 DPR-60

Response to Open Item

Inspection Reports No. 50-282/89007(DRSS) and 50-306/89007(DRSS)

In response to your letter of March 30, 1989, which transmitted Inspection Reports No. 282/89007 and 306/89007, the following information is offered.

Open Item

The inspectors toured the air sampling stations around the plant and observed the licensee representative check the systems for operability (vacuum) and demonstrate the procedure for adjusting the constant flow regulators with a calibrated Rotameter. The inspectors noted a concern that, although each of the parts of the collection train was tested for air in leakage, the train as a whole was not so tested by some procedure, such as blocking the face of the filter hold. In addition, they noted that the flow-rates drifted over the calibration period by as much as 25%, but that no corrections were made to the total volume sampled, or on the acceptable level of change. The licensee representative agreed to consider these concerns and to submit a letter to Region III on their resolution. This will be followed under Open Items No. (50-282/89007-04; 50-306/89007-04).

Response

Sampling Procedures for the Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program, which were prepared and controlled by Teledyne Isotopes Midwest Laboratory, were substantially revised on January 23, 1990 with many inputs from Northern States Power Environmental Regulatory Affairs Department field personnel. An equation for calculating air volume and methods for leak test were included. These procedures are now controlled by the Nuclear Radiological Services Department.

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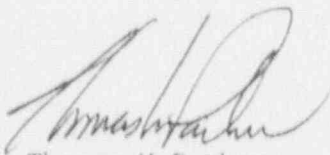
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The responsibility for sample collection was transferred from the Environmental Regulatory Affairs Department to the Nuclear Radiological Services Department on January 1, 1990. All the Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program responsibilities were consolidated within the Nuclear Radiological Services Department. A former Radiation Protection Specialist from the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, was added to the Nuclear Radiological Services Department on March 1, 1990 to fulfill this new responsibility.

Since assuming the responsibility for sample collection, the Nuclear Radiological Services Department has made significant improvements to the air sampling stations and how they are tested. Old clam-shell sample holders were replaced with new in-line sample holders. Every sample change, a portable flow-rate meter is connected via a quick connector located in the sampling train upstream of the in-line holder. The flow rate is then recorded. The inlet of the sampling train is blocked off to check for any leakage on the system. The system is also checked by verifying that the vacuum is drawn down to the vacuum breaker setting. This method is similar to the monthly calibration procedure with the exception that during the monthly calibration the vacuum is drawn to the maximum obtainable level.

The problem of drifting flow rates was resolved by taking a flow-rate reading at the time of installation of the sample holder assembly and another at the time of its removal, the average of these two flow-rate readings is used to calculate the total volume.

The improvements in the administration of the air sampling program and the modifications to the air sampler hardware and test methods should address all of the concerns expressed in the subject open item. Please contact us if you have any questions related to this response.



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