



MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SERVICE

50-282/306

March 23, 1994

Mr. John Martin, Regional Administrator
Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Region 3
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Dear Mr. Martin:

As you are aware, the Minnesota Legislature is currently debating whether to allow Dry Cask Storage at the Prairie Island nuclear power plant owned by Northern States Power (NSP) Company. The additional fuel storage is needed since the plant will have no storage space in its pool at the end of this fueling cycle in 1995.

Questions have been raised regarding the ability of NSP to continue plant operation even with no spent fuel storage space available. It is this Department's firm understanding that plant operation in this situation would be prohibited under NRC rules.

Will you please provide a brief and very basic review of NRC's actions, requirements and/or restrictions regarding nuclear plant operation when no spent fuel storage space is available at the plant site? A rapid** response in non-technical language would be greatly appreciated and very useful in clarifying this issue.

Thank you for your efforts and assistance.

Sincerely,

David Sampsel
Director of Legislative Relations
and Federal Intervention

DS/mo
cc: Kris Sanda, Commissioner

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** A faxed response by Friday morning, March 25, 1994, followed by an original copy sent via U.S. Mail would be extremely helpful. The Department's address and fax number are:

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