

"Public"

February 21, 1995

Mr. E. Watzl, Vice President
Nuclear Generation
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Mr. Watzl:

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Messrs. M. Dapas and R. Bywater of this office from December 6, 1994, through January 23, 1995, of activities at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, and to the discussion of our findings with Mr. M. 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.

As a result of a thorough investigation of an event, you identified several weaknesses in the performance of a surveillance test. The inspectors have reviewed your corrective actions in response to this event and have concluded that you have taken appropriate action to address the weaknesses you have identified. However, based on our review of your investigation, the NRC identified a violation for the failure to enter the appropriate residual heat removal system limiting condition for operation while performing a surveillance test. Even though this violation had minimal safety significance, the violation is the third violation issued in the last 12 months that pertains to problems with essential support systems during maintenance and surveillance activities. Therefore, a Notice of Violation is being issued.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. 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. This response should address what steps you plan to take to ensure essential support systems are properly controlled during maintenance and surveillance activities.

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Mr. E. Watzl, Vice President

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Also, based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements for the failure to perform visual inspections of a snubber. However, the violation is not being cited because 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), were satisfied.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction. However, if you find it necessary to include such information, you should clearly indicate the specific information that you desire not to be placed in the PDR, and provide the legal basis to support your request for withholding the information from the public.

The response directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980*, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

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

Sincerely,

s/s Wayne J. Kropp, Chief
Wayne J. Kropp, Chief
Reactor Projects Section 2A

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

Enclosure:
Notice of Violation
Inspection Report
No. 50-282/94018; 50-306/94018(DRP)

cc w/encl: Site General Manager, PINGP
John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,
Nuclear Engineer, MPCA
State Liaison Officer, State
of Minnesota
State Liaison Officer, State
of Wisconsin

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Mr. E. Watzl, Vice President

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

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Mr. E. Watzl, Vice President

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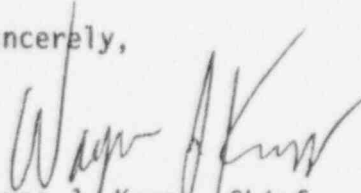
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