



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

February 3, 1992

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

Mr. L. R. Eliason
Vice President, Nuclear Generation
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Eliason:

On January 14 and 15, 1992, NRC senior managers met to evaluate the nuclear safety performance of operating reactors, fuel facilities, and other materials licensees. The NRC conducts this meeting semiannually to determine if the safety performance of the various licensees exhibits sufficient weaknesses to warrant increased NRC attention. In addition, at this meeting, senior managers identify specific plants that have demonstrated a level of safety performance that deserves formal NRC recognition. At the January 1992 Senior Management Meeting, the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant was identified as having achieved a high level of safety performance and met criteria for recognition of its performance. I am pleased to note that the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant has again been identified as a good performer, and I consider this a noteworthy accomplishment.

In identifying such plants, senior managers perform an evaluation of performance in many areas including operational safety, self-assessment, problem resolution, and plant management organization and oversight.

NRC senior management recognizes that management involvement in all phases of plant operation, the dedicated and knowledgeable staff that support plant activities, and the commitment to safety throughout the organization are necessary to achieve the level of performance demonstrated by the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant. We commend you and your staff for achieving a high level of safety performance. Your achievement is the result of dedicated efforts from your staff and is a positive example to the industry.

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cc:
Gerald Charnoff, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Mr. E. L. Watzl, Site General Manager
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company
Route 2
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Ms. Lisa R. Tiegel
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division
Suite 200
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector Office
1719 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Mr. William Miller, Auditor
Goodhue County Courthouse
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066

Dr. Raymond Thron
Director of Environmental Health
Minneapolis Department of Health
925 SE Delaware Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55459-0040

Mr. M. Sellman, Plant Manager
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company
Route 2
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Dr. John W. Ferrian
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The greatest challenge that you now face is to maintain this level of performance and not to rest on past achievements. Continued management involvement and support, and dedicated efforts from your staff to identify and promptly correct problems, are necessary for you to continue to meet this difficult challenge.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: See next page

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