

January 10, 1996

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

Dear Mr. Watzl:

In a telephone conversation between Mr. M. Bielby, and Mr. Jim Lash, arrangements were made for the administration of licensing examinations at Prairie Island.

The written and operating examinations are scheduled for the week(s) of May 6, 1996. Your staff will be given an opportunity to review the licensing examinations in accordance with the guidelines in Revision 7 of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examiner Standards," (ES-201, Attachment 4) during the week of April 22, 1996.

To prepare the examinations and meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the reference materials identified in Attachment 2 of ES-201 by February 6, 1996. Any delay in receiving approved and indexed reference material or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete reference material may result in the examinations being rescheduled.

The NRC will prepare and administer the written examinations in accordance with ES-401 and ES-402 of NUREG-1021. In order to conduct the requested examinations, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations on the date noted above. The NRC's guidelines for administering the written examinations are described in ES-402, Attachment 1.

The NRC will prepare and administer the operating tests in accordance with ES-301 and ES-302 of NUREG-1021. In order to conduct the requested operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. Your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final.

ES-402, Attachment 2, and ES-302, Attachment 1, contain a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examination and operating tests are being administered.

Your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications and waiver requests at least 30 days before the first examination date so that the NRC will be able to review the applications and the medical certifications and evaluate any requested waivers. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final, signed applications certifying that all

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training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This request is covered by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Clearance Number 3150-0101, which expires October 31, 1995. The estimated average burden is 7.7 hours per response, including gathering, copying and mailing the required material. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Information and Records Management Branch, Mail Stop T-6 F33, Office of Information Resources Management, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555; and to the Paperwork Reduction Project (3150-0101), Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Jim Lash has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and requirements, please contact Mike Bielby at (708) 829-9762.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas M. Burdick

Thomas M. Burdick, Chief  
Operator Licensing Branch

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

cc: Plant Manager, Prairie Island  
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