

OCT 24 1984

Docket Nos. 50-282  
50-306

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Mr. D. M. Musolf  
Nuclear Support Services Department  
Northern States Power Company  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Midland Square - 4th Floor  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Musolf:

We have completed the review of your topical report titled "Rod Swap Methodology NSPNAD 8408" (July 1984) transmitted by letter dated August 23, 1984. The report describes a method for determining rod reactivity worth utilizing the rod swap technique that you are planning to use for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit No. 2 Cycle No. 9 scheduled to commence in October 1984. Data on control rod reactivity worth obtained during the Prairie Island Unit 2 Cycle 8 and Unit 1 Cycle 9 startup were presented to validate the methodology. We find the proposed methodology acceptable to be used for future reloads at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant provided the following conditions are met:

- 1) Whenever the rod swap technique is used, all banks (control and shutdown) are measured.
- 2) A review criterion of + 10% is applied to the reference bank.
- 3) The acceptance criterion of +10% of total worth is to be applied to the total worth of all banks (control and shutdown).
- 4) Furnish the rod swap data for NRC review within 45 days after the methodology is used for each unit. This is a one-time submittal for each unit.

These conditions were discussed with and agreed to by members of your staff.

A copy of our Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

James R. Miller, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #3  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:

Jim Hard, Resident Inspector  
Mary McCormick Burger, RIII  
M. Chatterton, NRR

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