

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Licensing and Management Issues
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

September 25, 1996

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT NO. 1, JUSTIFICATION
FOR CANCELLATION OF MID-CYCLE OUTAGE INSPECTION (TAC NO. M94486)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

By letter dated June 27, 1996, Northern States Power Co. provided technical justification to revise a previous commitment, made in a letter dated February 28, 1996, to perform a mid-cycle inspection of certain steam generator tube sleeve welds in steam generator 12 of Prairie Island Unit No. 1. The need for a mid-cycle inspection depended upon the outcome of metallurgical examination (root-cause determination) of certain pulled tube samples containing nondestructive examination (NDE) indications that were discovered in a limited number of sleeve-to-tube welds during the spring 1996 refueling outage. Improved NDE technology allowed the detection of the small, previously undetectable, weld defects during the spring 1996 refueling outage.

The staff has reviewed your justification for withdrawing the commitment for a mid-cycle inspection outage. The staff has found that the sleeve weld indications are not due to service-induced degradation. Instead, they are original fabrication flaws that were the result of faulty tube surface cleaning prior to welding.

Based upon the root-cause determination, analyses, and tests, the staff finds that a mid-cycle outage to inspect the subject tube-to-sleeve welds is not warranted. Northern States Power may operate Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit No. 1 throughout the entire operating cycle 18.

This completes our review of TAC No. M94486. If you have any questions regarding our review of this issue, please contact Beth Wetzel at (301) 415-1355.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

John N. Hannon, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-282

cc: See next page

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NAME	BWetzel <i>BW</i>		CJamerson <i>CJ</i>		Strosnider		JHannon
DATE	9/25/96		9/25/96		9/6/96		9/25/96

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warranted. The licensee may operate Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1 throughout the entire operating Cycle 18.

The staff further notes that the licensee made a new commitment for the refueling outage inspection currently scheduled for the fall 1997. That commitment states:

"A 100% examination of all sleeves using current state-of-the-art Appendix H qualified eddy current techniques will be done. A reexamination of all sleeve welds with resulting volumetric and crack-like ET indications will be done by UT."

The acceptance criteria for this inspection are under development and will be submitted for staff review when the revised ABB-CE topical report for welded sleeves is submitted later this year.

As a future action, the licensee intends to seek a license amendment to update the current ABB-CE Sleeving Topical Report to the latest revision when it becomes available later this year.

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Project Directorate III-1
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NAME	BWetzel <i>BW</i>		CJamerson <i>CJ</i>		Strosnider		JHannon
DATE	9/4/96		9/3/96		9/6/96		

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 25, 1996

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Northern States Power Company
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Minneapolis, MN 55401

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FOR CANCELLATION OF MID-CYCLE OUTAGE INSPECTION (TAC NO. M94486)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

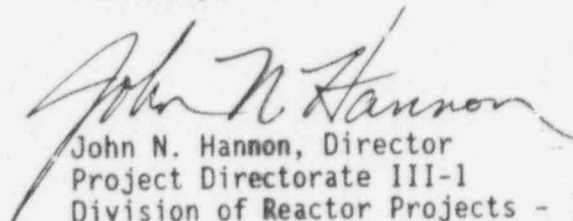
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This completes our review of TAC No. M94486. If you have any questions regarding our review of this issue, please contact Beth Wetzel at (301) 415-1355.

Sincerely,



John N. Hannon, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - II/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Northern States Power Company

cc:

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