



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

June 2, 1997

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-282/97009(DRP); 50-306/97009(DRP);
72-10/97009(DRP); AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND
NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On May 13, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements with four examples occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violation is of concern because it demonstrates inadequate attention to both the quality of procedures and the performance of procedure requirements. Two of the examples resulted in unexpected positive reactivity additions.

We are concerned about the decline in operation's performance that is continuing at Prairie Island. Over the last several months our inspection reports have noted several examples of inadequate performance in your conduct of operations. Another example, which occurred shortly after the inspection period ended, was an emergent work order that caused an inadvertent actuation of an engineered safety feature. During the management meeting you attended with us at the NRC Region III Office on May 20, 1997, we discussed these performance problems and you presented an overview of your performance improvement efforts over the last 3 years. You informed us that additional corrective actions are being developed to address issues identified during an independent assessment at your facility. We would like to meet with you again this summer to learn the scope and status of your improvement efforts and assessment of results. In the short term, we will continue to observe and provide feedback of our assessment of your performance.

Regarding the violation described above, you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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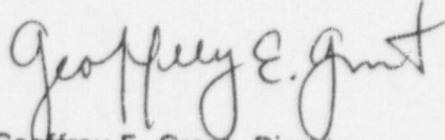


M. Wadley

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,



Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-282, 50-306, 72-10
License Nos: DPR-42, DPR-60, SNM-2506

Enclosures:

1. Inspection Report 50-282/97009(DRP);
50-306/97009(DRP); 72-10/37009(DRP)
2. Notice of Violation
3. NRC Headquarters Response to
Dry Cask Storage Task Interface Agreement

cc w/encl: Plant Manager, Prairie Island
John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,
Nuclear Engineer, MPCA
State Liaison Officer, State
of Minnesota
State Liaison Officer, State
of Wisconsin
Tribal Council
Prairie Island Dakota Community

Public

M. Wadley

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Sincerely,

/s/Geoffrey E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,
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State Liaison Officer, State
of Minnesota
State Liaison Officer, State
of Wisconsin
Tribal Council
Prairie Island Dakota Community

Docket File w/encl	DRP w/encl
PUBLIC IE-01 w/encl	RIII PRR w/encl
OC/LFDCB w/encl	Prairie Island PM, NRR w/encl
SRI Prairie Island w/encl	CAA1 w/encl (E-mail)
Monticello w/encl	A. B. Beach, w/encl
RIII Enf. Coordinator, w/encl	DRS (2) w/encl
Deputy RA, w/encl	TSS w/encl

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DATE	05/30/97		06/11/97	<i>EG</i>			

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