



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

July 24, 1997

Public

IE-01

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

Dear Mr. Wadley:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-282/97011(DRP); 50-306/97011(DRP);
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING
PLANT

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On June 25, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear
Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Operators performed well during the shutdowns and subsequent startups of both Units
during the assessment period. However, based on the results of this inspection, the NRC
has determined that three violations of NRC requirements occurred. The violations are
cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the
are described in detail in the subject inspection report.

For the first violation, we are concerned that a relatively large number of the procedures
and instructions reviewed by the inspectors either was missing relevant information or had
information that could have been misleading. The number of examples identified for that
violation indicate that there may be a relatively widespread procedure quality problem.
The corrective actions for the recent trend of procedure adherence and adequacy problems
were discussed at the meeting with you and your staff on May 20, 1997, at the Region III
office and have been discussed by the Resident Inspector staff with plant staff for the
recent examples in the Notice. These actions include a comprehensive effort to
characterize the nature and extent of the problems as applied to the various work groups
and programs at the plant, a subsequent root cause analysis of the major problem areas
identified by the characterization process, and revision of the inadequate procedures prior
to their next use. You indicated that you would meet with us later this summer to discuss
the results of your efforts.

A second violation, in which the inspectors identified that the Operations Committee was
observed conducting superficial reviews of procedures, may be one of the contributors to
the first violation. We understand that this violation is already receiving significant
management attention. The third violation involved not providing adequate emergency
lighting for some safe-shutdown operations in the event of a fire.

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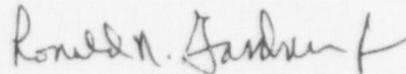


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The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for Violation No. 1 on procedure adequacy, and the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed as discussed above. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter for Violation No. 1 unless the description does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice. You are required to respond, however, to this letter for Violations No. 2 and 3 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.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response 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
License Nos: DPR-42, DPR-60

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-282/97011(DRP);
50-306/97011(DRP)

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

M. Wadley

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for Violation No. 1 on procedure adequacy, and the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed as discussed above. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter for Violation No. 1 unless the description does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide addition information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice. You are required to respond, however, to this letter for Violations No. 2 and 3 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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Sincerely,

/s/Ronald N. Gardner for

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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Tribal Council
Prairie Island Dakota Community

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