



Northern States Power Company

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

1717 Wakonade Dr. East  
Welch, Minnesota 55089

October 8, 1998

U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

### PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Docket Nos. 50-282 License Nos. DPR-42  
50-306 DPR-60

#### Kaowool One-Hour Fire Barriers

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During the Fire Protection Functional Inspection (FPFI) at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP) the qualification of Kaowool used at the PINGP as a 1 hour fire barrier was found to be indeterminate based on the lack of a qualified, tested configuration for the installed Kaowool fire barriers. During the FPFI exit meeting of August 28, 1998, NSP provided the NRC with the response to self-assessment question FP-P032. The response to FP-P032 identified four options for resolving Kaowool 1-hour fire barrier issues at the PINGP:

1. Modify the existing PINGP Kaowool configuration to meet accepted tested configuration for Kaowool 1-hour fire barriers.
2. Replace Kaowool with another material that has passed acceptable testing as a 1-hour fire barrier.
3. Replace Kaowool with an alternative material as existing Kaowool barriers are removed or damaged (once a suitable alternative is identified).
4. Eliminate need for 1-hour fire barriers through cable rerouting or other options.

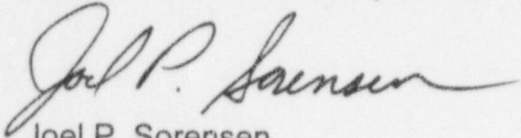
In this letter we have made the following new Nuclear Regulatory Commission commitments:

1. *NSP plans to pursue a combination of options 2, 3, and 4. We expect to complete the evaluation of options 2 and 4 by July 1, 1999.*

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2. ***The Kaowool replacement and/or cable rerouting will be completed by December 31, 2000.***
3. ***The PINGP will maintain compensatory measures in each affected fire area until all Kaowool 1-hour fire barriers are either replaced or determined to be unnecessary due to cable rerouting or other suitable rationale.***

Please contact Jeff Kivi (651-388-1121) if you have any questions related to this letter.



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