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August 12, 1988

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PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket Nos. 50-282 License Nos. DPR-42
50-306 DPR-60

Response to Inspection Reports
50-282/88008(DRP) and 50-306/88008(DRP)
Inadvertent Substation Breaker Operation

Your letter of July 7, 1988, which transmitted Inspection Reports 50-282/88008 and 50-306/88008 requested additional information regarding the events surrounding the May 25, 1988 substation breaker actuation and the status of the substation work control process. The following is submitted in response to that request.

On May 25, 1988, Breaker 8H17 and its associated motor operated disconnects (MOD's) opened due to work being conducted in the substation. The work that was in progress was a continuation of our efforts to improve the accuracy of substation drawings. Specifically, the workman was wire checking the panels in the substation control house. During the performance of this work a terminal post on a barrier terminal strip failed mechanically and came loose from the strip. This wire shorted to an adjacent terminal causing breaker 8H17 and its associated MOD's to open at 1033.

The worker immediately contacted NSP System Operations who was already in contact with the Prairie Island Shift Supervisor. The workman landed the loose wires on an adjacent good terminal strip and the MOD's and 8H17 were closed at 1049.

Subsequent investigation revealed that the Prairie Island Shift Supervisor was not aware that wire checking was in progress on the date of the occurrence. Since the work involved was to take place over a long period of time (approximately a year), an agreement had been reached between the Plant and the work department to deviate from the normal practice of requiring the workman to obtain a key to the substation each day. The workman was issued a key with the understanding that each day, prior to commencing work, he would call the Shift Supervisor and inform him that the wire checking was about to commence and what

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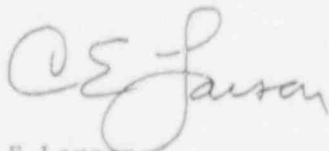
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equipment would be affected. The workman was also to inform the Shift Supervisor when work was completed for the Jay. This agreement was documented on a Prairie Island Operations Note. On May 25, 1988 the required notification of the Shift Supervisor was not made prior to commencing work.

After reviewing the circumstances surrounding the actuation of 8H17, this policy was canceled. In the future, the key to the substation must be obtained on a daily basis with the permission of the Shift Supervisor prior to the commencement of work. Additionally, a Request for Outage detailing the equipment to be wire checked is now being issued to ensure understanding of what equipment could be affected. Also, wire checking for the unit generator output breakers has now been restricted to unit outages. As an additional measure, to ensure that plant management is aware of work in progress in the substation, this work is now listed in the Daily Planning Review and covered during the daily staff meeting.

Substation errors have been of concern both to NSP nuclear generation management and the Prairie Island Senior NRC Resident Inspector. To address these concerns, control of work processes in the Prairie Island and Monticello substations is being upgraded through the development of substation work process directives. These directives are currently in draft form and undergoing final review. It is anticipated that they will be approved and issued by October 1, 1988. Training in the new processes and full implementation will occur within six weeks of approval.



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