



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

October 9, 1998

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

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND INSPECTION REPORT 50-282/98015(DRP);  
50-306/98015(DRP); AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On September 10, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, operations activities, including a Unit 1 power reduction and subsequent ascension, were performed in a deliberate and controlled manner. The NRC inspectors noted good system engineer involvement in D1 emergency diesel generator activities and in the identification and resolution of reactor coolant vent system and reactor vessel head heavy load issues. However, while monitoring surveillance activities, NRC inspectors identified a violation of Technical Specification requirements when maintenance personnel did not perform a safety-related surveillance test in accordance with the surveillance test procedure. Although subsequent post-maintenance testing was performed satisfactorily, the NRC was concerned that workers deviated from a safety-related procedure without following established guidelines. This violation occurred despite the considerable management attention and focus that has been placed on procedure quality, adherence, and compliance over the last several months. We encourage you to continue your efforts in improving performance in these areas.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence, and the date when full compliance was achieved is already adequately addressed on the docket in the enclosure to a letter from the NRC, Region III, Division of Reactor Projects, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 7, to Mr. M. Wadley, Vice President, Nuclear Generation, Northern States Power Company, dated December 22, 1997. The letter and its enclosure describe the procedure quality and adherence corrective actions presented to the NRC during management meetings held on May 20 and November 25, 1997. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein 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.

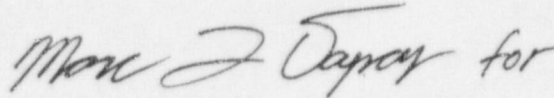
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M. Wadley

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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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Geoffrey E. Grant for".

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 50-282/98015(DRP);  
50-306/98015(DRP)

cc w/encl: Plant Manager, Prairie Island  
State Liaison Officer, State of Minnesota  
State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin  
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community

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.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marc L. Dapas for

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin  
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\prai\pra98015.drp

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DATE	10/8/98		10/9/98				

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