

October 29, 1998

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

SUBJECT: NRC RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION REPORTS 50-282/98019(DRS);
50-306/98019(DRS)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On October 16, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. The inspection examined activities conducted under your license related to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license.

Areas examined during the inspection included the radiological environmental monitoring program (REMP), implementation of the Offsite Dose Calculation Manual (ODCM), plant water chemistry, liquid effluent pathways, radiological controls within the plant, and self-assessment and audit activities. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations of work activities in progress, and interviews with personnel. No violations of NRC requirements were identified.

Overall, the chemistry and REMP programs were well implemented. The REMP data indicated that there was no discernable impact on the environs from plant operations. The quality assurance of the chemistry laboratory was effective, as intercomparison results demonstrated excellent analytical capabilities. Plant water quality for the primary and secondary systems remained excellent and hideout return studies indicated minimal steam generator fouling. The audits and self-assessments identified areas for improvement and your staff followed up issues for proper resolution. During this inspection, we noted that the ODCM did not list environmental detection limits which were consistent with NRC guidance or industry standards, and that a description of a recently identified effluent pathway was not included in the ODCM. Your staff indicated that the ODCM would be changed to correct these items. We will follow up on the ODCM revision during a future inspection.

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

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M. Wadley

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Original /s/ Gary L. Shear

Gary L. Shear, Chief
Plant Support Branch 2

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

Enclosure: Inspection Reports 50-282/98019(DRS); 50-306/98019(DRS)

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

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