



Northern States Power Company

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October 31, 1988

NRC Bulletin 88-09

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
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

Response to NRC Bulletin 88-09  
Thimble Tube Thinning in Westinghouse Reactors

The following information is provided in response to Reporting Requirement 3b of NRC Bulletin 88-09, Thimble Tube Thinning in Westinghouse Reactors.

Since early 1987 Prairie Island has had an informal program in place that calls for eddy current inspections of all in-core flux thimbles every refueling outage until such time that reliable wear rate data can be established. Once these rates are established, the need to inspect every refueling would be re-evaluated and a new inspection frequency determined. To date three inspections have been conducted, two on Unit 1 and one on Unit 2, resulting in the capping of one thimble on each unit. These thimbles had exceeded the interim acceptance criteria of 40 to 50% wall loss. The inspections and capping of the worn thimbles were performed under the Prairie Island work control process and are documented accordingly.

It is our intention to formalize the thimble tube inspection program and acceptance criteria to document conformance with the requirements of Criterion 1 of NRC Bulletin 88-09. This will be completed by December 31, 1989. This completion date will allow us to incorporate the results of the Westinghouse Owners Group Bottom Mounted Instrumentation Program into our program. Until this program is formalized, we will continue with the informal inspection program described above.


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Director of NRR  
October 31, 1988  
Page 2

Northern States Power Company

Please contact us if you have any questions related to our response to  
NRC Bulletin 88-09.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C E Larson".

C E Larson  
Vice President Nuclear Generation

c: Regional Administrator - Region III, NRC  
NRR Project Manager, NRC  
Senior Resident Inspector, NRC  
G Charnoff

Attachment

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

DOCKET NOS. 50-282  
50-306

INFORMATION REQUIRED BY NRC BULLETIN 88-09

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, with this letter is submitting information required by NRC Bulletin 88-09 for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant.

This letter contains no restricted or other defense information.

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

By C E Larson  
C E Larson  
Vice President Nuclear Generation

On this 31 day of October, 1988 before me a notary public in and for said County, personally appeared C E Larson, Vice President Nuclear Generation, and being first duly sworn acknowledged that he is authorized to execute this document on behalf of Northern States Power Company, that he knows the contents thereof, and that to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief the statements made in it are true and that it is not interposed for delay.

Judy L. Klapperick

