



Northern States Power Company

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

1717 Wakonade Dr. East
Welch, Minnesota 55089

November 25, 1998

10 CFR 50.90

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

**License Amendment Request Dated November 25, 1998
Boric Acid Storage Tank Level Instrumentation**

Attached is a request for a change to the Technical Specifications, Appendix A of the Operating Licenses, for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. Northern States Power Company submits this request in accordance with the provisions of 10CFR50.90.

Prairie Island Technical Specification 3.2.B.5 requires the operability of the Boric Acid Storage Tank (BAST) interlocks associated with the transfer of safety injection suction from the BAST to the refueling water storage tank (RWST). In addition, Technical Specification Table TS.4.1-1C, Functional Unit 7, requires the functional testing of the BAST transfer logic to the RWST on a monthly basis. In order to complete the testing required by the Technical Specifications, individual BAST level channels and transfer logic channels must be made inoperable. However, the Prairie Island Technical Specifications do not contain the allowances for the inoperability of BAST level channels or associated transfer logic channels to perform the required testing. This lack of allowance for channel inoperability also limits the performance of preventative and corrective maintenance on the system when above MODE 5.

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This amendment request proposes changes to the Prairie Island Technical Specifications which would allow limited inoperability of boric acid storage tank (BAST)

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level channels and transfer logic channels to provide for required testing and maintenance of the associated components.

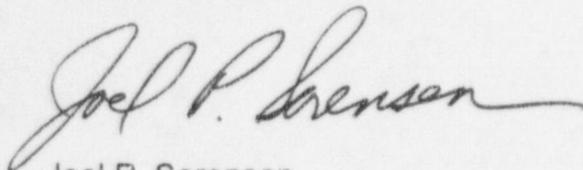
The two Prairie Island units share three boric acid storage tanks. One tank is normally aligned to each unit during power operation and the third tank acts as a standby and is physically isolated. During power operation the tank acts as a source of highly concentrated boric acid to the chemical and volume control system. In addition, injection of this highly concentrated boric acid solution is necessary, per current analyses, to mitigate the consequences of a main steam line break accident. Additional details on the system design are provided in Exhibit A.

It is possible to complete testing of the BAST to RWST transfer instrumentation without making level or logic channels associated with the inservice BASTs inoperable. However, testing the instrumentation in that manner requires the physical re-alignment of the standby and in-service BASTs on each unit each month. As delineated in Exhibit A, this testing configuration has several disadvantages and increases the potential for a two unit shutdown resulting from the inability to complete the BAST instrumentation testing because of the inoperability of one of the three BASTs. For these reasons it is not considered a viable method for the long term testing of the BAST to RWST transfer instrumentation.

However, because the current Technical Specifications offer no alternative, NSP will utilize the re-alignment of the BASTs to complete the required testing while the NRC Staff reviews the proposed License Amendment Request. Because of the increased potential for a two unit shutdown and the disadvantages of the repeated BAST re-alignment, NSP respectfully requests that the NRC review and approve this License Amendment Request in an expedited manner.

Exhibit A contains a description of the proposed change, the reasons for requesting the change, the supporting safety evaluation, and the significant hazards determination. Exhibit B contains current Prairie Island Technical Specification pages marked up to show the proposed change. Exhibit C contains the revised Prairie Island Technical Specification pages incorporating the proposed change.

If you have any questions related to this license amendment request, please contact Gene Eckholt at 651-388-1121.



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NRR Project Manager, NRC
Senior Resident Inspector, NRC
Kris Sanda, State of Minnesota
J E Silberg

Attachments:

Affidavit

Exhibit A, Evaluation of Proposed Changes to the Technical Specification
Appendix A of Operation License DPR-42 and DPR-60.

Exhibit B, Marked Up Technical Specification Pages

Exhibit C, Revised Technical Specification Pages