

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Licensing and Management Issues
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

February 20, 1998

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNIT 2 - EVALUATION
OF PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE TO THE ASME CODE SURFACE
EXAMINATION OF PART-LENGTH CONTROL ROD DRIVE MECHANISM
REACTOR VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION SEAL WELDS (TAC NO. MA0862)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

By letter dated February 13, 1998, you proposed an alternative to the surface examination requirements of paragraph N-518.4 of the 1968 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The proposed alternative would be used in conjunction with four nonstructural seal welds on threaded caps for the Unit 2 reactor vessel head penetrations for the part-length control rod drive mechanisms (CRDMs) after the CRDMs are removed.

The staff has completed its review of your request and concludes that the proposed alternative to the ASME Code for surface examination of the seal welds on threaded caps for the reactor vessel head penetrations for the part-length CRDMs will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. The proposed alternative inspection is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and is acceptable for the four stated repairs at Prairie Island, Unit 2. Authorization of the alternative does not extend to future use without prior staff approval. If similar repairs are necessary for the Unit 1 penetrations in the future, a separate relief request submittal will be required.

The safety evaluation supporting our finding is enclosed. If you have any questions concerning this action please contact Beth Wetzel at (301) 415-1355.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Cynthia A. Carpenter, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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DF01

Docket Nos. 50-282 & 50-306

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Northern States Power Company

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant

cc:

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Northern States Power Company
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DISTRIBUTION FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND RELIEF REQUEST

DATED: February 20, 1998

~~Docket File (50-282, 50-306)~~

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