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JUN 29 1989

Docket No. 50-282
Docket No. 50-306

Northern States Power Company
ATTN: Mr. C. E. Larson
Vice President, Nuclear
Generation
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your review, prior to our scheduled meeting of July 27, 1989, is the SALP 8 Board Report for the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant, covering the period December 1, 1987, through April 30, 1989.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the SALP Board Assessment and concur with their ratings. It is my view that the conduct of nuclear activities in connection with the Prairie Island facility shows an appropriate concern for nuclear safety. Specific areas I would like to highlight include:

1. A strong operations staff committed to the trip reduction program as evidenced by the absence of a plant trip during the assessment period.
2. A radiological control staff that is experienced and well-trained, contributing to the low number of personnel contaminations and low contamination levels throughout the plant.
3. An extremely low maintenance backlog combined with one of the best plant availability records indicative of the management oversight and dedication of plant staff in the area of Maintenance.

I have also noted that improvement is needed in the areas of Security, Surveillance and Engineering/Technical Support. Although the Maintenance/Surveillance functional area received a SALP 1 rating, the Board noted a decline in Surveillance performance, particularly in enforcement history (seven violations this period). The SALP 1 rating for this functional area was heavily weighted by your excellent performance in the Maintenance area. With regard to Security, performance declined from a SALP 1 to a SALP 2 due to the lack of timely corrective action to address equipment aging problems and a decline in enforcement history. With regard to Engineering/Technical Support, significant deficiencies were identified with regard to dedication of commercial grade items for use in safety related systems. NSP did not perform documented evaluations to identify critical characteristics and safety functions prior to component installation, resulting in components in safety-related applications of indeterminate quality. Matters of this type warrant your continued attention to achieve successful resolution and to assure that overall performance remains at its current level.

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JUN 29 1989

While you will have sufficient opportunity to present your comments at the meeting on July 27, 1989, we also solicit written comments within 30 days after the meeting. Your comments, a summary of our meeting, and my disposition of your comments will be issued as an appendix to the enclosed SALP Board Report.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the SALP Board Report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP Report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
A. Bert Davis

A. Bert Davis
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: SALP 8 Board Report
No. 50-282/89001; 50-306/89001

See Attached Distribution

YES
RIII
RMS 6/23/89
Sutphin/cg
NPS
chsl/89

RIII
Pederson
6/23/89
Paperiello

RIII
Burgess
6/26/89
Davis
6/29/89

RIII
Axelsson
6/27/89

RIII
Hague
6/28/89

RIII
Greenman

RIII
Miller
6/28/89

Distribution

cc w/enclosure:

E. L. Watzl, Plant Manager

DCD/DCB (RIDS)

Licensing Fee Management Branch

Resident Inspector, RIII Prairie
Island

Resident Inspector, RIII Monticello

John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,

Nuclear Engineer, MPCA

State Liaison Officer, State
of Minnesota

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T. E. Murley, Director, NRR

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T. M. Roberts, Commissioner

K. M. Carr, Commissioner

K. C. Rogers, Commissioner

J. R. Curtiss, Commissioner

D. C. DiIanni, NRR Project Manager

L. A. Yandell, NRR Director (Acting), Project Directorate III-1

J. Lieberman, Director, Office of
Enforcement

E. M. McKenna, SALP Coordinator, NRR

J. F. Wechselberger, NRR

RIII PRR

RIII SGA

State Liaison Officer, State
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and Section Chiefs

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