



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

June 5, 1998

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

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND INSPECTION REPORT 50-282/98007(DRP);
50-306/98007(DRP); AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On May 11, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period covered by this inspection, several problems were identified with engineering activities including engineering support to maintenance, surveillance testing, and operations activities. Some of the issues were identified by the plant staff, but others were identified by the NRC. Violations of regulatory requirements were identified concerning two instances of failure to promptly correct conditions adverse to quality, two instances of procedures that did not contain enough information to ensure successful performance of maintenance and testing activities, and one instance of failure to develop testing for a safety-related system that was installed over 2 ½ years ago. In addition, weaknesses were identified in the Individual Plant Examination submittal and the computerized equipment database. Three unresolved items concerning equipment operability, Technical Specification compliance, and performance of a safety evaluation were identified which may be considered violations of regulatory requirements when more information becomes available. All of the issues, taken together, raise a concern on the part of the NRC regarding the quality of engineering and engineering support at the facility.

The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In the response, we also request that you include the results of your revised evaluation of whether the temporary modification installed for the cooling water strainer backwash valves constitutes an unreviewed safety question.

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M. Wadley

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

Sincerely,

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
50-282/98007(DRP);
50-306/98007(DRP)

cc w/encs: 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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M. Wadley

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