



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4352

January 27, 2022

Mr. Christopher P. Domingos
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company,
Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089-9642

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1
AND 2 – CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION

Dear Mr. Domingos:

In a telephone conversation on January 25, 2022, between Mr. R. Baker, Chief Examiner, Mr. J. Nance, Operations Engineer, and Mr. F. Collins, Operator License Program Manager, arrangements were made for the administration of operator licensing examinations at Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant during the week of August 8, 2022. In addition, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) currently plans to make an examination validation visit to your facility the week of June 27, 2022.

As agreed upon during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 12 to NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

To meet the above schedule, it will be necessary for your staff to furnish the operating test outlines by March 11, 2022. The written examination outline was provided to your staff on October 7, 2021. The written examinations, operating tests, and supporting reference materials identified in NUREG-1021, Examination Standard (ES)-2.1, "Preparing for Operator Licensing Initial Examinations," will be due by May 27, 2022. Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 55.40(b)(3), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the examinations and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready to use.

We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or Safeguards Information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Delays in receiving the required materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be cancelled or rescheduled.

To conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, your staff will need to provide adequate space and accommodations and to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-3.5, "Administering Operating Tests," your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the NRC takes licensing action on all the applications and any adjudicatory actions on any hearing demands are complete.

ES-1.2, "Guidelines for Taking NRC Examinations," contains a number of NRC guidelines for the written examinations and operating tests as they are being administered.

To permit timely NRC review and evaluation, your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator waiver or excusal requests (if any) (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Number 3150-0090) at least 60 days before the first examination date (if possible). Contact Mr. J. Nance to determine the method for submission of the waiver or excusal requests. Preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (OMB Control Number 3150-0090) and medical certifications (OMB Control Number 3150-0024) should be submitted at least 30 days before the first examination date. If the preliminary applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Final signed applications certifying that all training has been completed and requesting any waivers or excusals, as applicable, should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

Although the guidelines for receiving waiver or excusal requests call for at least 30 days before the first examination date (preliminary) and 14 days before the first examination date (final), the requests should be submitted as early as possible in the process (see the 60-day guideline above). Resolutions resulting from verbal inquiries by the licensee to the NRC are not binding. Submittals addressing waivers or excusals, or both, should be in writing (i.e., using NRC Form 398, or as directed by Mr. J. Nance when contacting him to determine the method for submission). The NRC will document its final decision on whether to grant a waiver or excusal on the final (not preliminary) NRC Form 398 submitted for the applicant. The NRC will not provide its decision until the final application is submitted to the agency.

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This letter contains information collection requirements that are subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Approval Number 3150-0018.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be available electronically for public inspection through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. F. Collins has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Jim Nance at 630-829-9678 or Patricia Pelke at 630-829-9868.

Sincerely,



Baker, Randal signing on behalf
of Pelke, Patricia
on 01/27/22

Patricia J. Pelke, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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

cc: Distribution via LISTSERV®
C. Boegeman, Training Manager

Letter to Christopher P. Domingos from Patricia J. Pelke dated January 27, 2022.

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