



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 4, 1999

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director  
Nuclear Energy Engineering  
Northern States Power Company  
414 Nicollet Mall  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

**SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2 -  
CLOSURE OF GENERIC LETTER 98-01 AND SUPPLEMENT 1, "YEAR 2000  
READINESS OF COMPUTER SYSTEMS AT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS"  
(TAC NOS. MA1877 AND MA1878)**

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On May 11, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-01, "Year 2000 Readiness of Computer Systems at Nuclear Power Plants," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power plants, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel. The NRC issued GL 98-01 to ensure that licensees were adequately addressing potential date-related errors with computer systems, embedded software devices, and software applications sufficiently in advance of the year 2000 (Y2K) rollover date to ensure that nuclear power plants will be in a stable, safe condition during the Y2K transition.

Subsequent to the issuance of GL 98-01, increased public awareness and government attention to the Y2K issue resulted in concern over not only public health and safety of nuclear power plants, but also concern over the ability of nuclear power plants to continue to provide power to the national electric power grid. Therefore, on January 14, 1999, the staff issued Supplement 1 to GL-98-01 to provide addressees with a voluntary, alternative response to that required in item (2) of GL 98-01. In responding to Supplement 1, addressees were asked to confirm Y2K readiness of the facility with regard to those systems within the scope of the license and NRC regulations, as well as those systems required for continued operation of the facility after January 1, 2000. Addressees were permitted to voluntarily respond to Supplement 1 to GL 98-01 on or before July 1, 1999, in lieu of item (2) of GL 98-01.

In response to GL 98-01, you provided letters dated August 4, 1998, and July 1, 1999, for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. These submittals provided the information requested by GL 98-01. The staff has reviewed your response and has concluded that all requested information has been provided. Therefore, we consider GL 98-01 to be closed for your facilities.

NUREG-1706, "Year 2000 Readiness in U.S. Nuclear Power Plants," provides a status of nuclear power plant Year 2000 readiness as of September 1, 1999, and a description of NRC actions to determine Y2K readiness in operating U.S. reactors. The staff assessment of Y2K readiness consisted of independently evaluating nuclear power plant licensee Y2K readiness

DF01

**NRC FILE CENTER COP**

PDR ADOCK

program processes, reviewing licensee responses to NRC requests for reporting Y2K readiness (i.e., GL 98-01 and Supplement 1), and combining the results on these assessments to achieve a high level of assurance that each facility will operate safely during the transition from 1999 to 2000 and on other Y2K-sensitive dates. NUREG-1706 is linked to the NRC home page (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NEWS/year2000.html>).

We would like to acknowledge the efforts you have completed to date in preparing your plant for the Y2K transition and appreciate your continued cooperation on this important issue.

If you have any questions related to this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1392.

Sincerely,



Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc w/encl: See next page

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

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
Plant

cc:

J. E. Silberg, Esquire  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge  
2300 N Street, N. W.  
Washington DC 20037

Site Licensing  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
Plant  
Northern States Power Company  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Plant Manager  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
Plant  
Northern States Power Company  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Tribal Council  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
ATTN: Environmental Department  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, Minnesota 55089

Adonis A. Neblett  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
455 Minnesota Street  
Suite 900  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2127

Site General Manager  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
Plant  
Northern States Power Company  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, Minnesota 55089

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Resident Inspector's Office  
1719 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, Minnesota 55089-9642

Regional Administrator, Region III  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Mr. Stephen Bloom, Administrator  
Goodhue County Courthouse  
Box 408  
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066-0408

Commissioner  
Department of Public Service  
121 Seventh Place East  
Suite 200  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2145

program processes, reviewing licensee responses to NRC requests for reporting Y2K readiness (i.e., GL 98-01 and Supplement 1), and combining the results on these assessments to achieve a high level of assurance that each facility will operate safely during the transition from 1999 to 2000 and on other Y2K-sensitive dates. NUREG-1706 is linked to the NRC home page (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NEWS/year2000.html>).

We would like to acknowledge the efforts you have completed to date in preparing your plant for the Y2K transition and appreciate your continued cooperation on this important issue.

If you have any questions related to this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1392.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc w/encl: See next page

DISTRIBUTION

File Center  
PUBLIC  
PDIII-1 Reading  
OGC  
ACRS  
AHansen, Lead PM  
RLanksbury, RIII

TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT, INDICATE "C" IN THE BOX

OFFICE	PDIII-1/PM	C	PDIII-1/LA	C	PDIII-1/SC	C
NAME	TJKim <i>TJK</i>		RBouling <i>RS</i>		CCraig <i>CC</i>	
DATE	11/14/99		11/14/99		11/14/99	

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDIII-1\PRAIRIE\gl9801ltr.wpd

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

program processes, reviewing licensee responses to NRC requests for reporting Y2K readiness (i.e., GL 98-01 and Supplement 1), and combining the results on these assessments to achieve a high level of assurance that each facility will operate safely during the transition from 1999 to 2000 and on other Y2K-sensitive dates. NUREG-1706 is linked to the NRC home page (<http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/NEWS/year2000.html>).

We would like to acknowledge the efforts you have completed to date in preparing your plant for the Y2K transition and appreciate your continued cooperation on this important issue.

If you have any questions related to this matter, please contact me at 301-415-1392.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc w/encl: See next page

DISTRIBUTION

File Center  
PUBLIC  
PDIII-1 Reading  
OGC  
ACRS  
AHansen, Lead PM  
RLanksbury, RIII

TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT, INDICATE "C" IN THE BOX

OFFICE	PDIII-1/PM	C	PDIII-1/LA	C	PDIII-1/SC	C
NAME	TJKim <i>TJK</i>		RBouling <i>RS</i>		CCraig <i>CC</i>	
DATE	11/4/99		11/4/99		11/4/99	

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDIII-1\PRAIRIE\gl9801ltr.wpd

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY