



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

December 21, 1999

EA 99-295

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

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND INSPECTION REPORT 50-282/99016(DRP);
50-306/99016(DRP)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On November 23, 1999, the NRC completed a baseline inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The results of this inspection were discussed on November 23, 1999, with Mr. J. Sorensen and other members of your staff. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

The inspection was an examination by the resident inspectors of activities conducted under your license as they relate to reactor safety, verification of performance indicators, event followup, and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations of activities, and interviews with personnel.

In response to the performance indicator data errors identified in the enclosed report as well as in earlier reports, your staff is taking action to increase oversight and proceduralization of this important element of the new assessment process. Previously, your staff identified that the threshold from Green to White was crossed for the Emergency Response Organization (ERO) Drill Participation performance indicator in the second quarter of 1999. Corrective actions were taken and, as of the third quarter 1999, the performance indicator color was again Green. We reviewed the change in performance indicator color during a baseline inspection conducted in July 1999 and concluded that the change from Green to White was the result of a recent change in ERO position assignments that would not have impacted your ability to respond during an emergency. Consequently, no additional inspections are planned in the ERO Drill Participation area.

Regarding the errors in the safety system functional failure performance indicator data, as discussed in Inspection Report 50-282/99006(DRP); 50-306/99006(DRP), we are exercising Discretion pursuant to Section VII.B.6 of the Enforcement Policy not to cite the violation, because these errors were not willful and are associated with data submitted during the voluntary pilot plant program.

IEO1

PDL A0001 05000282

If you contest the violation, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555-0001; with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III; the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector the Prairie Island facility.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,



Roger Lanksbury, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-282/99016(DRP);
50-306/90016(DRP)

cc w/encl: Site General Manager, Prairie Island
Plant Manager, Prairie Island
S. Minn, Commissioner, Minnesota
Department of Public Service
State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community

M. Wadley

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50-306/90016(DRP)

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Plant Manager, Prairie Island
S. Minn, Commissioner, Minnesota
Department of Public Service
State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community

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