



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

March 4, 2011

Mr. Mark A. Schimmel
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2, (REPORT 05000282/2011001
AND 05000306/2011001)

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

On February 17, 2011, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle performance review of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter will include the NRC's assessment of your performance in the Security Cornerstone and its security-related inspection plan.

The NRC determined that overall, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and met all cornerstone objectives. The NRC determined the performance for Unit 1 during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). The NRC determined the performance for Unit 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's ROP Action Matrix based on one inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone being classified as having low-to-moderate safety significance (White). This finding was from the third quarter of 2009 and related to inadequate design of the component cooling water system. A supplemental inspection (95001) was performed the week of June 14 through 18, 2010. During this inspection, we were unable to close the White finding due to an incomplete extent of condition review. An additional supplemental inspection was performed the week of November 1, 2010.

Based upon the results of this inspection, the NRC closed the White finding and Prairie Island Unit 2 transitioned to the Licensee Response Column of the NRC Action Matrix. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

In the 2009 mid-cycle assessment letter, dated September 1, 2009 (ADAMS Ref. ML092440367), we advised you of a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) in the area of human performance (HP) with cross-cutting themes in the aspects of systematic process (H.1(a)), procedural adequacy (H.2(c)), and procedural compliance (H.4(b)). During this assessment period there were eight findings documented with cross-cutting aspects in the HP area. Of these eight findings, one shared a common cross-cutting aspect of systematic process. No findings were identified in the procedural adequacy or procedural compliance areas.

With respect to the SCCI areas of systematic process (H.1(a)), procedural adequacy (H.2(c)), and procedural compliance (H.4(b)), both the NRC and your organization have noted an improvement in these areas. Your staff has identified corrective actions that should reasonably address the SCCI. Additionally, the number of findings with a cross-cutting aspect in these areas has been reduced. For these reasons, the NRC has gained confidence in your ability to correct the concerns identified and sustained improvement has been observed in these aspects. Therefore, the SCCI aspects in systematic process (H.1(a)), procedural adequacy (H.2(c)), and procedural compliance (H.4(b)) are closed.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through June 30, 2012. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes.

In addition to the ROP baseline, inspections are planned for Temporary Instructions 2515/177, "Managing Gas Accumulation in Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System," and 2515/179, "Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Requirement for Inventories of Materials Tracked in National Source Tracking System," and also Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Inspection Procedure 60855.1, "Operation of an ISFSI at Operating Plants."

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

M. Schimmel

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Please contact Jack Giessner at 630/829-9619 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Steven West, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306; 72-010
License Nos. DPR-42; DPR-60; SNM-2506

Enclosure: Prairie Island Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2011 - 06/30/2012

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		TI-177 - TI-177 FOLLOWUP		2
03/28/2011	04/15/2011	IP 2515/177	Managing Gas Accumulation In Emergency Core Cooling, Decay Heat Removal & Containment Spray System	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
04/11/2011	04/15/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		BI ENG - INSERVICE INSPECTION - U1		2
04/30/2011	06/04/2011	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
05/09/2011	05/13/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
05/09/2011	05/13/2011	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
06/20/2011	06/24/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
		BI EP - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		1
07/11/2011	07/15/2011	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
07/11/2011	07/15/2011	IP 7111403	Emergency Preparedness Organization Staffing and Augmentation System	
07/11/2011	07/15/2011	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
07/11/2011	07/15/2011	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
08/22/2011	08/26/2011	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
08/22/2011	08/26/2011	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 2515/179	Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Requirement for Inventories of Materials Tracked in NSTS	
10/03/2011	10/07/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
		BI OL - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
10/17/2011	10/21/2011	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
		BI ENG - MODIFICATIONS / 50.59 INSPECTION		3
10/31/2011	11/18/2011	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
		STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY - PLANNERS		2
12/01/2011	12/31/2011	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
01/01/2012	02/29/2012	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
01/09/2012	01/13/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
01/09/2012	01/13/2012	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	

Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2011 - 06/30/2012

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI ENG - INSERVICE INSPECTION - UNIT 2		1
02/18/2012	03/23/2012	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
02/27/2012	03/02/2012	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
04/23/2012	04/27/2012	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
		OL PREP - PR. ISLAND INIT PREP - 04/2012		4
04/23/2012	04/27/2012	W90250	OL - INITIAL EXAM - MAY 2012 - PRAI	
		OL EXAM - PR. ISLAND INIT EXAM - 05/2012		4
05/14/2012	05/25/2012	W90250	OL - INITIAL EXAM - MAY 2012 - PRAI	
		BI ENG - FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION & BAG TRIP		3
05/21/2012	06/22/2012	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	

M. Schimmel

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Please contact Jack Giessner at 630/829-9619 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/
Steven West, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306; 72-010
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Enclosure: Prairie Island Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

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Letter to M. Schimmel from S. West dated March 4, 2011.

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 05000282/2011001
AND 05000306/2011001)

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