



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 3, 2013

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(REPORT 05000282/2013006 AND 05000306/2013006)**

Dear Mr. Lynch:

On August 13, 2013, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its mid-cycle performance review of the 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 July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility.

The performance of Unit 1 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix because of one low-to-moderate safety significant (White) finding for Emergency Preparedness. This finding was for the failure to restore the capability to classify one general emergency and one site area emergency, following the loss of an effluent radiation detector.

On August 29, 2013, we notified you that the NRC had completed the supplemental inspection on this issue and that performance at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1, will be in the Licensee Response Column at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2013. Therefore, the NRC plans to perform the ROP baseline at Unit 1.

The NRC determined the performance at Prairie Island Unit 2 during the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's ROP Action Matrix because of one low-to-moderate safety significant (White) Performance Indicator (PI) for Emergency Alternating Current Power Systems in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone. Therefore, in addition to the ROP baseline inspection, the NRC plans to conduct a supplemental inspection to address the performance issues associated with this PI. The inspection will be conducted in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, "Supplemental Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area.

The NRC also plans on conducting Temporary Instructions 2515/182, "Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks," and Inspection Procedure 71003, "Post-Approval Site inspection for License Renewal" at your facility.

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2014. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-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. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

In the mid-cycle assessment letter dated September 4, 2012 (ML12249A425), the NRC opened a substantive cross-cutting issue (SCCI) associated with the aspect of Conservative Assumptions (H.1 (b)). This assessment letter stated that the SCCI will remain open until the number of findings with a cross-cutting aspect of H.1 (b) is reduced, the corrective actions taken to mitigate the cross-cutting theme prove effective, and sustained performance improvement is observed in the human performance area. To address the SCCI, your staff performed a root cause evaluation and developed corrective actions. Since the last assessment period, the associated corrective actions have been completed and there has been only two findings with the cross cutting aspect H.1 (b) over the last four quarters. Therefore, the NRC determined that the SCCI is closed.

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 System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact Mr. Ken Riemer at 630-829-9628 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kenneth G. O'Brien, Acting Division Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Prairie Island Inspection/Activity Plan

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Enclosure: Prairie Island Inspection/Activity Plan

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Letter to J. Lynch from K. O'Brien dated September 3, 2013

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER FOR
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
(REPORT 05000282/2013006 AND 05000306/2013006)

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DRPIII

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ROPAssessment.Resource@nrc.gov

Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2013 - 12/31/2014

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
			BI OLRQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
1, 2	09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	09/16/2013	09/20/2013	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	09/16/2013	09/20/2013	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
1	09/16/2013	09/20/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
1	09/16/2013	09/20/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
			RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL UNIT 2- 71003-PHASE 1		2
2	09/23/2013	10/18/2013	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	10/07/2013	10/11/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			BI ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION UNIT 2		1
2	10/28/2013	11/29/2013	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	12/02/2013	12/06/2013	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	03/03/2014	03/07/2014	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
1	03/03/2014	03/07/2014	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
1	03/03/2014	03/07/2014	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			BI MODS - MODIFICATION/50.59 INSPECTION		3
1, 2	04/14/2014	05/02/2014	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, and Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	04/21/2014	04/25/2014	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
			BI EPX - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
1	07/28/2014	08/01/2014	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	05/19/2014	05/23/2014	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
			BI ENG - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		4
1	06/09/2014	06/27/2014	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2013 - 12/31/2014

Unit Number	Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
	Start	End			
			RENEWAL - LICENSE RENEWAL INSPECTION U2		9
1, 2	07/14/2014	08/01/2014	IP 71003	Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal	
			OL PREP - INITIAL EXAM FOR 08/2014		3
1	07/14/2014	07/18/2014	W90310	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2014 MAY-JAN - PRAI	
			OL EXAM - PRAIRIE ISLAND INITIAL EXAM - 08/2014		3
1	08/04/2014	08/15/2014	W90310	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2014 MAY-JAN - PRAI	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	08/11/2014	08/15/2014	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
			BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
1	09/15/2014	09/19/2014	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
			BI ISI - INSERVICE INSPECTION UNIT 1		1
2	09/15/2014	11/01/2014	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	

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