



Mano K. Nazar
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
1717 Wakonade Dr. East • Welch MN 55089

August 26, 2002

10 CFR 50.54(f)

U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
DOCKET NOS. 50-282, 50-306
LICENSE NOS. DPR-42, DPR-60
NRC BULLETIN 2002-02: REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD AND VESSEL
HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLE INSPECTION PROGRAMS – 15-DAY RESPONSE

On August 9, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) transmitted Bulletin (BL) 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs." The NRC required that specific information be provided within 30 days of the date of the bulletin. For addressees who chose not to provide the information requested or could not meet the requested completion date, the NRC required a written response within 15 days of the date of the bulletin. In accordance with this requirement, Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) is providing the attached 15-day response for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant.

This letter contains the following commitment and no revisions to existing commitments:

NMC will continue to evaluate non-visual nondestructive examination (NDE) of the reactor pressure vessel head and vessel head penetration nozzles. NMC will complete this review and select appropriate NDE method(s) and, at least nine months prior to the refueling outage that follows the next refueling outage (for each unit), provide the remaining requested information as described in BL 2002-02.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate. Executed on August 26, 2002.

Mano K. Nazar
Site Vice President, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

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NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC

CC Regional Administrator, USNRC, Region III
Project Manager, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, USNRC, NRR
NRC Resident Inspector – Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

Attachment

ATTACHMENT 1

**NUCLEAR MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
DOCKET NOS. 50-282, 50-306**

August 2002

**NRC BULLETIN 2002-02: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING
PLANT 15-DAY RESPONSE**

2 Pages Follow

NRC BULLETIN 2002-02: REACTOR VESSEL HEAD
AND VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLE INSPECTION PROGRAMS
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT 15-DAY RESPONSE

Required Response 2.

- (2) *Addressees who choose not to provide the information requested or can not meet the requested completion dates are required to submit written responses within 15 days of the date of this bulletin. The responses must address any alternative course of action proposed, including the basis for the acceptability of the proposed alternative course of action.*

Response

Background

The effective degradation year (EDY) value for the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 1 and Unit 2 will be less than eleven at the start of each unit's next refueling outage, which are scheduled to start in Winter 2002 and Fall 2003, respectively. Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) has estimated that the EDY for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 1 will not exceed 12 until at least calendar year 2005 and that EDY for Unit 2 will not exceed 12 until at least calendar year 2006.

By letter dated September 4, 2001, NMC committed to perform a 100% effective visual examination of the reactor vessel head upper metal surface for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin (BL) 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," for future refueling outages. This commitment meets the suggested supplemental inspection in BL 2002-02 for the next refueling outage for plants with ≥ 8 EDY and ≤ 12 EDY values. Therefore, NMC meets the requested schedule of BL 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs," for activities to be conducted during the next refueling outages for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2. The remaining two inspection items noted in BL 2002-02, "Example Supplemental Inspections," table would not apply to Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 until the refueling outage that follows the Winter 2002 refueling outage for Unit 1 (Fall 2004) and the refueling outage that follows the Fall 2003 refueling outage for Unit 2 (Spring 2005).

Alternate Course of Action

NMC will continue to evaluate non-visual nondestructive examination (NDE) of the reactor pressure vessel head and vessel head penetration nozzles. NMC will complete this review and select appropriate NDE method(s) and, at least nine months prior to the refueling outage that follows the next refueling outage (for

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each unit), provide the remaining requested information as described in BL 2002-02.

Basis for the Acceptability of the Proposed Alternative Course of Action

The two additional inspection items of BL 2002-02 do not require an immediate commitment. Prairie Island Unit 1 and Unit 2 are not expected to reach 12 EDY until at least calendar year 2005 and 2006, respectively, and the refueling outages subsequent to the next refueling outage for each unit are not expected to occur until Fall 2004 and Spring 2005, respectively. NMC's commitment to respond will provide NMC and the NRC the opportunity to evaluate and develop any changes to the inspection program for the reactor pressure vessel head and vessel head penetration nozzles based on industry experience and inspection and repair technology advancements that are expected to be gained in this interim period.