December 22, 2000

Mr. J. Sorensen
Site General Manager
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT - NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-282/00-19(DRS); 50-306/00-19(DRS)

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

On December 14, 2000, the NRC completed a baseline inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The results of this inspection were discussed on December 14, 2000, with Mr. D. Schuelke and members of your staff. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to emergency preparedness 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. Specifically, this inspection focused on performance during your biennial emergency preparedness exercise and your staff's capability to self-assess your participants' performance.

No findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures 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/NRC/ADAMS/index.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

We will gladly discuss any question you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gary L. Shear, Chief
Plant Support Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-282/00-19(DRS);
50-306/00-19(DRS)

cc w/encl: Plant Manager, Prairie Island
M. Wadley, Chief Nuclear Officer
G. Eckholt, Site Licensing Manager
S. Northard, Nuclear Asset Manager
J. Malcolm, Commissioner, Minnesota
Department of Health
State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community
J. Silberg, Esquire
Shawn, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge
A. Neblett, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
S. Bloom, Administrator
Goodhue County Courthouse
Commissioner, Minnesota Department
Of Commerce
W. Curtis, FEMA, Region V

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket Nos:	50-282; 50-306
License Nos:	DPR-42; DPR-60
Report No:	50-282/00-19(DRS); 50-306/00-19(DRS)
Licensee:	Nuclear Management Company, LLC
Facility:	Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Location:	1717 Wakonade Drive East Welch, MN 55089
Dates:	December 12-15, 2000
Inspectors:	T. Ploski, Senior Emergency Preparedness Analyst R. Jickling, Emergency Preparedness Analyst
Approved by:	Gary L. Shear, Chief Plant Support Branch Division of Reactor Safety

NRC's REVISED REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently revamped its inspection, assessment, and enforcement programs for commercial nuclear power plants. The new process takes into account improvements in the performance of the nuclear industry over the past 25 years and improved approaches of inspecting and assessing safety performance at NRC licensed plants.

The new process monitors licensee performance in three broad areas (called strategic performance areas): reactor safety (avoiding accidents and reducing the consequences of accidents if they occur), radiation safety (protecting plant employees and the public during routine operations), and safeguards (protecting the plant against sabotage or other security threats). The process focuses on licensee performance within each of seven cornerstones of safety in the three areas:

Reactor Safety	Radiation Safety	Safeguards
● Initiating Events	● Occupational	● Physical Protection
● Mitigating Systems	● Public	
● Barrier Integrity		
● Emergency Preparedness		

To monitor these seven cornerstones of safety, the NRC uses two processes that generate information about the safety significance of plant operations: inspections and performance indicators. Inspection findings will be evaluated according to their potential significance for safety, using the Significance Determination Process, and assigned colors of GREEN, WHITE, YELLOW or RED. GREEN findings are indicative of issues that, while they may not be desirable, represent very low safety significance. WHITE findings indicate issues that are of low to moderate safety significance. YELLOW findings are issues that are of substantial safety significance. RED findings represent issues that are of high safety significance with a significant reduction in safety margin.

Performance indicator data will be compared to established criteria for measuring licensee performance in terms of potential safety. Based on prescribed thresholds, the indicators will be classified by color representing varying levels of performance and incremental degradation in safety: GREEN, WHITE, YELLOW, and RED. GREEN indicators represent performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight beyond the baseline inspections. WHITE corresponds to performance that may result in increased NRC oversight. YELLOW represents performance that minimally reduces safety margin and requires even more NRC oversight. And RED indicates performance that represents a significant reduction in safety margin but still provides adequate protection to public health and safety.

The assessment process integrates performance indicators and inspection so the agency can reach objective conclusions regarding overall plant performance. The agency will use an Action Matrix to determine in a systematic, predictable manner which regulatory actions should be taken based on a licensee's performance. The NRC's actions in response to the significance (as represented by the color) of issues will be the same for performance indicators as for inspection findings. As a licensee's safety performance degrades, the NRC will take more and increasingly significant action, which can include shutting down a plant, as described in the Action Matrix.

More information can be found at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000282-00-19(DRS), IR 05000306-00-19(DRS), on 12/12-15/2000, Nuclear Management Company, LCC, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 & 2. Emergency Preparedness.

The report covers a three day period of announced inspection by two regional emergency preparedness inspectors. The inspection focused on the Reactor Safety, Emergency Preparedness Cornerstone, and included the evaluation of licensee staff's capability to assess licensee participants' performance during the biennial emergency preparedness exercise.

REACTOR SAFETY

Cornerstone: Emergency Preparedness

- No findings of significance were identified (Section 1EP1 and Section 4OA1).

Report Details

1. REACTOR SAFETY

Cornerstone: Emergency Preparedness (EP)

1EP1 Drill, Exercise, and Actual Events

a. Inspection Scope

The inspectors reviewed the December 2000 exercise's objectives and scenario to ensure that the exercise would acceptably test major elements of the licensee's emergency plan. The inspectors verified that the simulated problems provided an acceptable framework to support demonstration of the licensee's capabilities to implement its emergency plan. The inspectors also reviewed records of practice drills in order to determine whether the associated scenario was sufficiently different from the scenario used in the December 13 exercise.

The inspectors evaluated exercise performance, focusing on the risk-significant activities of emergency classification, notification, and protective action recommendations, as well as implementation of accident mitigation strategies in the following emergency response facilities:

- Control Room Simulator (CRS)
- Technical Support Center (TSC)
- Emergency Operations Facility (EOF)

The inspectors also assessed the licensee's recognition of abnormal plant conditions, transfer of responsibilities between facilities, internal communications, interface with offsite officials, readiness of emergency facilities and related equipment, and overall implementation of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant's emergency plan.

The inspectors attended post-exercise critiques in the TSC and EOF to evaluate the licensee's initial self-assessment of its exercise performance. The inspectors attended licensee exercise evaluators' subsequent presentation of self-identified performance strengths and concerns to plant management.

b. Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

4OA6 Management Meetings

Exit Meeting Summary

The inspectors presented the inspection results to Mr. D. Schuelke and other members of licensee management and staff at the conclusion of the inspection on December 14, 2000. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented and did not identify any information discussed as proprietary.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

M. Agen, Sr. Nuclear Consultant, Emergency Preparedness
T. Allen, General Superintendent, NGS
L. Finholm, Principal Technical Instructor, Emergency Preparedness
A. Johnson, General Superintendent of Radiation Protection and Chemistry
M. Pfeffer, Principal Instructor, Emergency Preparedness
D. Schuelke, Plant Manager
R. Sloss, Auditor Nuclear Performance Assessment
J. Sorenson, Site General Manager
M. Werner, Superintendent Site Services
D. Westphal, Superintendent Operations Training

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

None

Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRS	Control Room Simulator
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
EOF	Emergency Operations Facility
EP	Emergency Preparedness
ERO	Emergency Response Organization
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OA	Other Activities
PERR	Public Electronic Reading Room
PINGP	Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
TSC	Technical Support Center

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

71114	Reactor Safety-Emergency Preparedness
71114.01	Exercise Evaluation

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Miscellaneous

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Emergency Plan (PINGP) Exercise Rerun Scenario
PINGP Emergency Plan Exercise Critique Report, September 13, 2000
PINGP Emergency Plan Exercise Technical Support Center Logs
PINGP Emergency Plan Exercise Emergency Operations Facility Logs
PINGP 577, Revision 27, Emergency Notification Report Forms, December 13, 2000
PINGP 582, Revision 16, Emergency Notification Follow-Up Messages, December 13, 2000
PINGP 666, Revision 13, Event Notification Worksheet, December 13, 2000

Condition Report

Condition Report List from September 13, 2000 Exercise

Procedures

PING 1054, Revision 25, EOF Offsite Notification Call List For Reclassification, 9:31 a.m. December 13,2000
PING 1054, Revision 25, EOF Offsite Notification Call List For Reclassification, 9:41 a.m. December 13, 2000
PING 1054, Revision 25, EOF Offsite Notification Call List For Reclassification, 9:46 a.m. December 13, 2000