

May 18, 2000

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

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - PRAIRIE ISLAND

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On May 5, 2000, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Prairie Island. The end-of-cycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period of May 30, 1999 to April 1, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period.

Overall, Prairie Island operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety. Prairie Island fully met all cornerstone objectives. While plant performance for the most recent quarter is within the licensee response column of the Action Matrix, there was one performance indicator that was outside of the licensee response band during the first three quarters of the assessment cycle. The Emergency Response Organization (ERO) Drill Participation PI was White during the second quarter of 1999. Our review of this matter concluded that the color 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. Corrective actions implemented by your staff resulted in this performance indicator being Green in the third quarter of 1999. Additionally, based on our review of performance indicator data during the latter portion of the assessment period, we concluded that your corrective actions for the performance indicator data accuracy problems that we discussed in our mid-cycle assessment letter, dated December 21, 1999, have been effective.

Based on the End-of-Cycle Review results, all performance indicators for the cornerstones were in the licensee response band. Additionally, NRC inspections and licensee self-assessments did not identify any findings that were greater than Green (very low safety significance) within the cornerstones of safety. Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility and inspections associated with your Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation over the next 12 months.

This letter advises you of our planned inspection effort resulting from the Prairie Island end-of-cycle review. The enclosed inspection plan details the scheduled inspections during the period from April 2, 2000 to March 31, 2001. We recognize that some of the listed inspections may already have occurred or be in progress but have included them for the sake of consistency with the planned inspection schedules issued earlier this year to the non-pilot plants. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for

scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and will be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room and is available in the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) at the NRC homepage, <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. More detailed information that provides the basis for this assessment is available at the following NRC website: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>.

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 630-829-9631 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/s/Bruce Burgess for

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5

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

Enclosure: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\prai\pi end-of-cycle letter.wpd

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Plant Manager, Prairie Island
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State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community
K. Kuhlmann, Council Administrator
A. Kohnen, President, Prairie Island
Community Center
D. Albers, Goodhue County Sheriff
G. Brown, Emergency Management Director
R. Wilhelm, Chair, Pierce County Board
of Directors
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The Honorable Romeo Cyr
G. Fried, Emergency Management Director
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