

February 15, 2001

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

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP - PRAIRIE ISLAND

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

On February 2, 2001, the NRC staff completed a review of the Prairie Island fourth quarter 2000 performance indicators. Our review identified that you have crossed the threshold from Green to White for the Unit 1 Residual Heat Removal System Unavailability and the Unit 2 High Pressure Injection System Unavailability performance indicators. The change in both of these performance indicators resulted from a design issue inspection finding that appeared to have more than low safety significance and for which the risk significance is still under determination. The details of this finding are documented in NRC Inspection Report 50-282/00-13(DRS); 50-306/00-13(DRS). When we have completed our assessment of the risk significance of this inspection finding, we will notify you of any inspections we plan to review the cause(s) of the change in the performance indicators.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be made 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).

Please contact Roger Lanksbury of my staff at (630) 829-9631 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

See Attached Distribution

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cc: Plant Manager, Prairie Island
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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
P. Tester, Assistant Attorney General
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