



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

March 4, 2009

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

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (05000282/2009001
AND 05000306/2009001)**

Dear Mr. Wadley:

On February 10, 2009, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2008. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only – Security Related Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2, operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Prairie Island Unit 2, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). However, plant performance for Prairie Island Unit 1 was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix based on one inspection finding in the Mitigating Systems cornerstone being classified as having low to moderate safety significance (White). This White finding, from the fourth quarter of 2008, involved failure of the turbine driven auxiliary feedwater pump to operate subsequent to a valid start signal. Although plant performance was within the Regulatory Response column, the significance of another inspection finding within the Public Radiation Safety cornerstone is still under review as part of the Significance Determination Process which, when finalized, may change our assessment of your plant's safety performance. The finding involved an October 29, 2008, radioactive material shipment from your facility that did not conform to the applicable Department of Transportation (DOT) regulatory requirements when it arrived at the shipping destination.

Currently, we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection (95001) at Unit 1 in addition to reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility. Please notify us of your readiness to conduct the supplemental inspection.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to security, scheduled through June 30, 2010. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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 John (Jack) Giessner at 630-829-9619 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306; 72-010
License Nos. DPR-42; DPR-60; SNM-2506

Enclosure: Prairie Island Inspection/Activity Plan

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Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
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Letter to M. Wadley from C. Pederson dated March 4, 2009

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GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 (05000282/2009001
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cc w/encl: D. Koehl, Chief Nuclear Officer
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P. Glass, Assistant General Counsel
Nuclear Asset Manager
J. Stine, State Liaison Officer, Minnesota Department of Health
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Indian Community
Administrator, Goodhue County Courthouse
Commissioner, Minnesota Department
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Manager, Environmental Protection Division
Office of the Attorney General of Minnesota
Emergency Preparedness Coordinator,
Dakota County Law Enforcement Center
Council Administrator
President, Prairie Island Tribal Council
Goodhue County Sheriff
Director, Pierce County Emergency
Management Agency
Chair, Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Chair, Dakota County Board of Commissioners
Mayor of Red Wing
Director, Goodhue County Emergency
Management Agency
Chair, Goodhue County Board of Commissioners
Pierce County Sheriff
Dakota County Sheriff
G. Mortensen, INPO

**Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2009 - 06/30/2010**

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI ENG - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION		3
04/06/2009	04/24/2009	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
		BI ENG - FIRE PROTECTION INFO GATHERING TRIP		3
03/23/2009	03/27/2009	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - CASK LOADING		1
04/01/2009	05/31/2009	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
06/01/2009	06/05/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
06/01/2009	06/05/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
		BI ENG - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		2
06/15/2009	06/19/2009	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	
		HD DROP - SMART SAMPLE OPESS FY2007-03, REVISION 2		1
06/22/2009	07/10/2009	IP 7111120-Rfl	Refueling Activities	
		BI EP - EP ROUTINE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		1
07/13/2009	07/17/2009	IP 2515/175	Emergency Response Organization, Drill/Exercise Performance Indicator, Program Review	
07/13/2009	07/17/2009	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing	
07/13/2009	07/17/2009	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing	
07/13/2009	07/17/2009	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies	
07/13/2009	07/17/2009	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
07/13/2009	07/17/2009	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	
07/13/2009	07/17/2009	IP 71151-IE03	Unplanned Power Changes per 7000 Critical Hrs	
		BI PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		4
07/20/2009	08/07/2009	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
		BI OL - BIENNIAL REQUAL. PROGRAM INSPECTION		2
08/10/2009	08/14/2009	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
08/24/2009	08/28/2009	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems	
08/24/2009	08/28/2009	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
08/24/2009	08/28/2009	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		BI ENG - INSERVICE INSPECTION & TI-172 REVISION 1		1
09/14/2009	10/02/2009	IP 2515/172	Reactor Coolant System Dissimilar Metal Butt Welds	
09/14/2009	10/02/2009	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
09/21/2009	09/25/2009	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
09/21/2009	09/25/2009	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	

**Prairie Island
Inspection / Activity Plan
03/01/2009 - 06/30/2010**

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 2515/173	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Ground Water Protection Voluntary Initiative	
10/05/2009	10/09/2009	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
02/08/2010	02/12/2010	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment	
02/08/2010	02/12/2010	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
		OL PREP - PR. ISLAND INIT PREP MARCH/2010		3
03/15/2010	03/19/2010	W90224	OL - INITIAL EXAM - APRIL 2010 - PRAI	
		OL EXAM - PR. ISLAND INIT EXAM - APRIL 2010		3
04/12/2010	04/23/2010	W90224	OL - INITIAL EXAM - APRIL 2010 - PRAI	
		BI ENG - ENGINEERING INSERVICE INSPECTION		1
04/19/2010	05/14/2010	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
04/26/2010	04/30/2010	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas	
04/26/2010	04/30/2010	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
05/10/2010	05/14/2010	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation	
		BI ENG - COMPONENT DESIGN BASES INSPECTION		6
06/28/2010	08/06/2010	IP 7111121	Component Design Bases Inspection	

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Tamara Bloomer

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