

December 20, 1999

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

SUBJECT: OPERATOR LICENSING RETAKE WRITTEN EXAMINATION REPORT  
50-282/99302(OL); 50-306/99302(OL)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approved licensed operator retake written examination was administered to a reactor operator applicant at your Prairie Island Nuclear Station on December 8, 1999. The applicant had failed the May 1999, initial licensed operator written examination. The license applicant's written examination was graded and the result finalized on December 15, 1999. The applicant passed the retake written examination and was issued an operating license.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosure to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this examination.

Sincerely,

/s/ D. E. Hills

David E. Hills, Chief  
Operations Branch

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-282/99302(OL); 50-306/99302(OL)

cc w/encl: Site General Manager, Prairie Island  
Plant Manager, Prairie Island  
S. Minn, Commissioner, Minnesota  
Department of Public Service  
State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin  
Tribal Council, Prairie Island Dakota Community

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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: 50-282/99302(OL); 50-306/99302(OL)

Licensee: Northern States Power Company

Facility: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

Location: 1717 Wakonade Dr. East  
Welch, MN 55089

Dates: December 8, 1999

Examiner: Dell McNeil, Senior Operations Inspector

Approved by: David E. Hills, Chief, Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Prairie Island Nuclear Station  
NRC Examination Report 50-282/99302(OL); 50-306/99302(OL)

A Prairie Island Nuclear Station training department developed, and NRC approved, initial operator licensing retake written examination was administered to one license applicant.

### Results:

The applicant passed the retake written examination and was issued a Reactor Operator's license.

### Examination Summary:

The written operator licensing examination submitted by the facility licensee was within the range of acceptability expected by the NRC. The examination was prepared and administered in accordance with the guidelines of NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors". (Sections O5.1, O5.2)

## Report Details

### **I. Operations**

#### **O5 Operator Training and Qualification**

##### **O5.1 Pre-Examination Activities**

###### **a. Scope**

The Prairie Island Nuclear Station training staff used the guidance prescribed in NUREG 1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors", Revision 8, April 1999, to prepare the written examination.

###### **b. Observations and Findings**

###### Outline/Examination Submittal

The licensee submitted the written examination outline and the written examination on schedule. The submitted outline and the proposed examination generally met all the standards of NUREG 1021 and contained all the required knowledge and ability test items necessary to adequately evaluate the applicant. Any changes made to the proposed examination were agreed upon between the NRC and the facility and were in accordance with NUREG-1021, Revision 8.

###### **c. Conclusions**

The written operator licensing examination submitted by the facility licensee was within the range of acceptability expected by the NRC.

##### **O5.2 Examination Activities**

###### **a. Scope**

The NRC authorized the Prairie Island Training Department to administer the retake written examination on December 8, 1999.

###### **b. Observations and Findings**

###### Written Examination

The administration of the written examination was not observed by NRC examiners. However, discussions with the station's examination proctor indicated that the examination was administered in accordance with NUREG 1021 guidelines. The proctor contacted a regional NRC examiner prior to the start of the examination to ensure someone would be available to assist if there were any difficulties with the exam's administration. Shortly before the expiration of the allowed five hours for the examination, the proctor requested an additional 30 minutes for the applicant to complete the examination. The request was granted, and the applicant completed the examination in approximately five hours, ten

minutes.

The examination did not involve use of the site specific simulator; therefore, no simulation facility report was necessary.

c. Conclusions

The examination was administered in accordance with the guidelines in NUREG 1021.

O5.3 Post Examination Activities

a. Examination Scope

The NRC examiner graded the applicant's written examination in accordance with the guidelines contained in ES-403 of NUREG 1021.

b. Observations and Findings

The NRC examiner did not identify any significant concerns with the applicant's performance on the written examination. The NRC examiner did not evaluate the overall quality of the licensee's training program due to the small sampling size taking the written examination.

c. Conclusions

The examiner did not identify any significant issues during the post examination activities.

**V. Management Meetings**

**X1 Exit Meeting Summary**

The chief examiner presented his observations and findings to the Superintendent of Operations Training via telecommunications on December 14, 1999. The superintendent acknowledged the findings presented and indicated that no proprietary information had been identified during the review nor administration of the examination.



## **PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED**

### Licensee

J. Kempkes, Training, Operations Instructor  
D. Westphal, Superintendent, Operations Training

### NRC

S. Ray, Senior Resident Inspector, Prairie Island

## **INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED**

None

## **ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED**

### Opened

None

### Closed

None

### Discussed

None

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS USED**

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DRS	Division of Reactor Safety
JPM	Job Performance Measure
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OL	Operator Licensing
RO	Reactor Operator