

April 22, 2002

Mr. Mano Nazar  
Site Vice President  
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant  
Nuclear Management Company, LLC  
1717 Wakonade Drive East  
Welch, MN 55089

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 -  
NRC STAFF FOLLOW-UP OF STEAM GENERATOR TUBE INSPECTION  
ACTIVITIES DURING RECENT REFUELING OUTAGES (TAC NOS. MB1305  
AND MB4012)

Dear Mr. Nazar:

As you are aware, the NRC staff has been following up on your recent steam generator tube inspections performed at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant (PINGP), Units 1 and 2. The staff's review efforts to date in this area are documented in a meeting summary dated May 24, 2001, (ADAMS Accession No. ML011500483) and also in a letter dated April 12, 2002, (ADAMS Accession No. ML021050465). As noted in these documents, the NRC staff raised a concern regarding the procedures for addressing noise in the eddy current test data in the U-bend region of low row tubes and expressed an interest in better understanding the licensee's methodology for ensuring flaw detection in the U-bend region of low row tubes with high eddy current noise levels. As a result, a site visit has been arranged for our key technical staff by members of your staff for a more detailed discussion of the criteria and the methodology for detecting flaws in data with high noise levels relative to the detection of all potentially significant flaws. The site visit is planned for April 30 - May 1, 2002, and the NRC staff members will include Emmett Murphy (Senior Materials Engineer) and myself, as well as Caius Dodd (NRC Consultant).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1392.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

cc: See next page

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Units 1 and 2

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March 2002