

August 25, 2003

Mr. Joseph M. Solymossy
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 -
RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2003-01, "POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEBRIS
BLOCKAGE ON EMERGENCY SUMP RECIRCULATION AT
PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTORS" (TAC NOS. MB9601 AND MB9602)

Dear Mr. Solymossy:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your response dated August 6, 2003, to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Bulletin 2003-01, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Sump Recirculation at Pressurized-Water Reactors," dated June 9, 2003. The NRC issued Bulletin 2003-01 to all pressurized-water reactor licensees requesting that they provide a response, within 60 days of the date of Bulletin 2003-01, that contains either the information requested in the following Option 1 or Option 2 stated in Bulletin 2003-01:

Option 1: State that the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and containment spray system (CSS) recirculation functions have been analyzed with respect to the potentially adverse post-accident debris blockage effects identified in this bulletin, taking into account the recent research findings described in the Discussion section, and are in compliance with all existing applicable regulatory requirements.

Option 2: Describe any interim compensatory measures that have been implemented or that will be implemented to reduce the risk which may be associated with potentially degraded or nonconforming ECCS and CSS recirculation functions until an evaluation to determine compliance is complete. If any of the interim compensatory measures listed in the Discussion section will not be implemented, provide a justification. Additionally, for any planned interim measures that will not be in place prior to your response to this bulletin, submit an implementation schedule and provide the basis for concluding that their implementation is not practical until a later date.

You provided an Option 2 response. You stated in your response that you have implemented certain interim compensatory measures and will implement the following interim new commitments:

1. NMC will develop and administer training on sump clogging by January 31, 2004.
2. NMC will conduct additional evaluations to determine an appropriate minimum Refueling Water Storage Tank (RWST) liquid level to secure Containment Spray (CS). The results of these evaluations will be factored into the procedures. This evaluation of securing CS and any subsequent procedure changes will be completed by January 31, 2004.
3. NMC will submit an implementation schedule for revising plant emergency operating procedures, where appropriate, to stop or throttle redundant pumps that are not necessary to provide required flows to cool containment and the reactor core within 30 days of issuance of the generic guidance by the Westinghouse Owners Group, currently expected by March 31, 2004.
4. NMC will implement a procedure to enhance operator guidance for refilling the RWST from alternative water sources. This procedure will be implemented by January 31, 2004.
5. NMC will enhance containment closeout and foreign material controls beginning with the next Unit 2 refueling outage in 2003.
6. NMC will implement a procedure revision to address potential debris ingestion by January 31, 2004.
7. NMC will perform an evaluation to analyze the emergency core cooling system recirculation functions with respect to the potentially adverse post-accident debris blockage effects on the containment sump, taking into account the recent research findings, to determine compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements. NMC will continue to work with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) to follow Generic Safety Issue 191 resolution methodology currently being developed by NEI. NMC will implement the methodology, as appropriate for Prairie Island.

In addition, you stated the following:

The interim compensatory measures, Commitments 1 – 6 above, will remain in place until Commitment 7 is complete.

The NRC staff considered your Option 2 response for certain compensatory measures that have been implemented and, as stated above, compensatory measures will be implemented to reduce the interim risk associated with potentially degraded or nonconforming ECCS and CSS

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recirculation functions until an evaluation to determine compliance is complete. Based on your response, the NRC staff considers your actions to be complete. Please retain any records of your actions in response to Bulletin 2003-01, as the NRC staff may conduct subsequent inspection activities regarding this issue.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1446.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John G. Lamb, 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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Should you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1446.

Sincerely,

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John G. Lamb, Project Manager, Section 1
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Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306

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Units 1 and 2

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