



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352**

February 16, 2012

EA-11-203

Mr. Mark A. Schimmel
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

**SUBJECT: FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION OF A SECURITY-RELATED
GREATER THAN GREEN FINDING WITH ASSESSMENT FOLLOWUP
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION; NRC INSPECTION REPORT
NOS. 05000282/2011408; 05000306/2011408
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

This letter provides you the final significance determination of the preliminary Greater than Green finding discussed in our previous communication dated December 7, 2011, which included U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspection report Nos. 05000282/2011405(DRS); 05000306/2011405(DRS). The Greater than Green finding was discussed in detail in Section 3SO2.b of the subject inspection report.

At your request, a regulatory conference was held on January 18, 2012, to discuss your views on the issue. During the conference your staff described your assessment of the significance of the finding and the corrective actions taken to resolve it, including the root cause evaluation of the finding. A partial list of attendees at the conference is included in Enclosure 1.

After considering the information developed during the inspection and the information you provided at the regulatory conference, the NRC has concluded that the inspection finding is of at least low to moderate security significance, is appropriately characterized as Greater than Green, and will require supplemental NRC inspections. Further details regarding the NRC's assessment of the information provided during the regulatory conference, determination of the final significance, and assessment of the appropriate security action matrix column can be found in Enclosure 2.

Enclosures 2 and 3 Contain Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information. Upon separation, this cover letter is decontrolled.
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M. Schimmel

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You have 30 calendar days from the date of this letter to appeal the staff's determination of significance for the identified Greater than Green finding. Such appeals will be considered to have merit only if they meet the criteria given in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0609, "Significance Determination Process," Attachment 2. An appeal must be sent in writing to the Regional Administrator, Region III, Suite 210, 2443 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532.

The NRC has also determined that a violation was associated with the finding, as cited in the Notice of Violation (Notice) provided in Enclosure 3. The circumstances surrounding the violation were described in detail in NRC Inspection Report Nos. 05000282/2011405(DRS); 05000306/2011405(DRS). In accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, the Notice is considered escalated enforcement action because it is associated with a Greater Than Green finding.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reasons for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to be taken to correct the violation and prevent recurrence, and the date when full compliance was achieved, is already adequately addressed on the docket in NRC Inspection Report Nos. 05000282/2011405(DRS); 05000306/2011405(DRS) and during the regulatory conference. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 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 NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. However, because the material in Enclosures 2 and 3 is considered security-related information, as defined in 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1), its disclosure to unauthorized individuals could present a security vulnerability. Therefore, the material in these enclosures will not be made available electronically for public inspection. Additionally, if you choose to respond and security related information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1).

M. Schimmel

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response, if any.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cynthia D. Pederson
Acting Regional Administrator

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

Enclosures:

- 1) Regulatory Conference Attendees
- 2) Final Significance Determination (non-public)
- 3) Notice of Violation (non-public)

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REGULATORY CONFERENCE
LIST OF ATTENDEES

XCEL ENERGY, INC.

Jon Anderson, Prairie Island Regulatory Affairs Manager
Paula Anderson, Fleet Regulatory Affairs Director
Aldo Capristo, Senior Director - Nuclear Services
John Hamilton, Security Manager
Danna Hickey, Security Programs Supervisor
Dennis Koehl, Chief Nuclear Officer
Mark Schimmel, Prairie Island Site Vice President
Lenny Sueper, Senior Regulatory Engineer
Rob White, Manager - Nuclear Security Programs

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

David Furst, Senior Enforcement Specialist, Office of Enforcement
Dale Lawver, Security Inspector
Kenneth O'Brien, Deputy Director, Division of Reactor Safety
Steven Orth, Enforcement Officer
Kenneth Riemer, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 2
Richard Skokowski, Chief, Plant Support Branch, DRS
Jennifer Uhle, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator
Steven West, Director, Division of Reactor Projects

M. Schimmel

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response, if any.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cynthia D. Pederson
Acting Regional Administrator

Docket No. 050-00255
License No. DPR-20

Enclosures:

- 1) Regulatory Conference Attendees
- 2) Final Significance Determination (non-public)
- 3) Notice of Violation (non-public)

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Cover letter: publicly available; non-sensitive
Entire document: non-publicly available; sensitive – security-related

OFFICE	RIII	RIII	RIII	NSIR	OE	RIII	RIII
NAME	Lougheed	Skokowski	Reynolds	Wiggins ¹	Zimmerman ²	Orth	Pederson
DATE	02/13/12	02/14/12	02/14/12	02/13/12	02/13/12	02/14/12	02/15/12

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¹ NSIR concurrence received via e-mail from S. Coker on February 13, 2012

² OE concurrence received via e-mail from D. Furst on February 13, 2012.

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Letter to Mark A. Schimmel from Cynthia D. Pederson dated February 16, 2012

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PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

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