



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

December 20, 2016

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

SUBJECT: SCHEDULING OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS –  
PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Northard:

We have received your corporate letters, L-PI-16-006, dated January 26, 2016, and L-PI-16-064, dated July 20, 2016, in response to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulatory Issue Summary 2016-09, "Preparation and Scheduling of Operator Licensing Examinations." In the letters, you requested initial operator licensing examinations be scheduled for September 2018 and June 2020 at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Station.

In response, we have scheduled initial operator licensing examinations for the weeks of:

- September 17 and 24, 2018, with an onsite validation the week of August 20, 2018; and
- June 8 and 15, 2020, with an onsite validation the week of May 11, 2020.

In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately, upon discovery, of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

We understand that your staff will develop the examinations unless we determine it is necessary for the NRC to develop an examination in which case, we will notify you immediately upon discovery of that need. Because your letter indicated that there were more than nine applicants being considered for each of these examinations, the examinations were each scheduled for 2 weeks. Please inform us if the number of applicants decline below 10 for any examination as this will impact the examination schedule. Also, please inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you need to change the scheduled dates for the examinations.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the training department approximately 150 days prior to the examination informing the training manager of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination date, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the Training Program.

S. Northard

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Robert J. Orlikowski, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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

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S. Northard

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**/RA/**

Robert J. Orlikowski, Chief  
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