



NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

October 31, 1979

Mr J G Keppler, Director, Region III
Office of Inspection & Enforcement
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Dear Mr Keppler

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50-282 License No. DPR-42
50-306 DPR-60

Environmental Event Report 79-09
pH of Discharges - TS B-2.4.3

Under TS B-5.4.2A, we are required to report as an Environmental Event, when a protection condition is exceeded. According to TS B-2.4.3, the contents of the neutralizing tank shall be controlled so that discharges from the tank shall have a pH value of no less than 6.5 nor greater than 8.5.

On October 7, 1979, a neutralizing tank batch was released with a pH of greater than 8.5, due to improper operation of the pH monitor on the tank effluent pipe. The tank contents had a pH of 11.65, as later determined by analysis of a collected sample.

The tank volume released was 34,000 gallons at a rate of 220 gpm which was diluted by a cooling tower blowdown flow of 66,000 gpm. Calculations show a resulting pH of 9.24 at the outfall to the Truttman Slough discharge canal.

The corrective actions described in our Environmental Event Report of April 19, 1979 were effected but to further amplify this matter, a Memo has been written to all Shift Supervisors by the Superintendent-Operations. The memo emphasizes that compliance with the technical specifications requires reliable operation of the pH monitor and to exercise caution for any suspect pH reading. We are also investigating the basis for replacing the pH monitoring instrumentation.

E C Ward
Manager-Nuclear Environmental Services

ECW/jh

cc: Director, NRR c/o DSB (17)
MPCA
Attn: J W Ferman

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