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NORTHERN STATES P WER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

October 9, 1979

Mr. James G. Keppler
Director - Region III
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Keppler:

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Dockets No. 50-282 and No. 50-306

Additional Response to IE Bulletin 79-17

As a result of recent information concerning the actual extent of intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC) of 304 stainless steel piping at Three Mile Island Unit (TMI-1), we request an extension be granted for our Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant for the implementation of Item 2 of IE Bulletin 79-17, "Pipe Cracks in Stagnant Borated Water Systems at PWR Plants."

As was originally reported, out of the 1902 welds inspected at TMI-1, there were 350 welds that had IGSCC indications. Since then, it has been reported that these 350 welds were reevaluated with an examination technique that could discriminate between actual IGSCC and geometrical reflectors, and only 32 of the 1902 welds were found to have IGSCC indications.

In view of the changing IGSCC data base at TMI-1 and the actual systems that are involved, we request a 90-day delay in the implementation of Item 2. This extension will provide us the time to evaluate the data from TMI-1, develop a sound inspection plan which assures the optimization of the inspection techniques, and implement the inspection program with reasonable confidence in its effectiveness and with the necessary skilled inspection personnel.

Yours very truly,

L. J. Wachter

L. J. Wachter
Vice President - Power Production
and System Operation

cc: Mr. G. Charnoff

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