



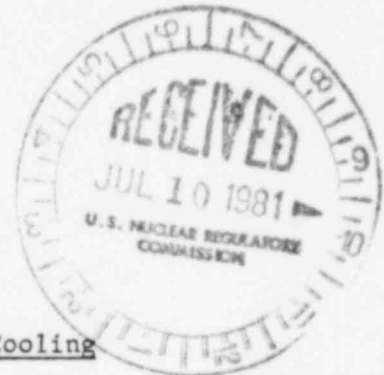
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Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket Nos. 50-282 License Nos. DPR-42
50-306 DPR-60



Instrumentation for Detection of Inadequate Core Cooling

- Ref: (a) Letter from L O Mayer, NSP, to Director of NRR, USNRC, dated November 20, 1981, "Request for Relief from Implementation Schedule for NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2, Instrumentation for Detection of Inadequate Core Cooling"
- (b) Letter from L O Mayer, NSP, to Director of NRR, USNRC, dated December 30, 1981, "Post TMI Requirements - NUREG-0737"

References (a) and (b) responded to the licensee submittal requirements of NUREG-0737, Item II.F.2. Northern States Power Company described planned instrumentation for the detection of inadequate core cooling consisting of subcooling monitors and upgraded core exit thermocouples. A delay in the implementation schedule was requested in the case of vessel level instrumentation because, in our view, no system was available which could satisfy all of the requirements of the NRC Staff by January 1, 1982.

We believe the difficulties in meeting the NRC Staff requirements for vessel level instrumentation noted in reference (a) are still valid. However, we have continued to follow the development of vessel level instrumentation and in late 1980 it became clear to us that a level measurement system involving the heat transfer characteristics of the surrounding medium offered important advantages over other systems. An Ad Hoc Committee of Westinghouse plant owners, including Northern States Power Company, was formed to closely follow the development of the Combustion Engineering (CE) Heated Junction Thermocouple System (HJTCS) and implement it in Westinghouse plants.

Northern States Power Company will, by September 1, 1981, provide the NRC Staff with a description of the CE HJTCS which is currently planned for use at Prairie Island upon demonstration of its feasibility. This submittal will include as much of the information requested in NUREG-0737 as practicable.

L.O. Mayer

L O Mayer, PE
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/DMT/dm

cc J G Keppler
NRC Resident Inspector
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