



Northern States Power Company

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant

1717 Wakonade Dr. East
Welch, Minnesota 55089

August 2, 1995

U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

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

Response to
Notification of Operator Licensing Discrepancy

In a telephone conversation on June 21, 1995, our Mr. David Reynolds, Superintendent Operations Training, described to Mr. Max Bailey of your office the circumstances surrounding the deferral of on-the-job training (OJT) checkoffs related to fuel handling activities for four license candidates until after their license examination the week of May 15, 1995.

After Mr. Bailey conferred with Region III management, the need for additional information was identified. Your letter of July 5, 1995, requested our assessment of the root cause of this occurrence, the date of discovery, the dates on which each applicant completed his respective OJT training requirements, any actions to preclude this from happening again, and a description of the job assignments of the four licensed operators following their license action date of June 1, 1995. In this response letter, we have made one new NRC commitment, and that is shown below in *italics*.

On October 31, 1994, four senior reactor operator (SRO) upgrade candidates commenced the OJT portion of the training program. In the OJT, there are six checkoffs related to supervision of fuel handling activities. Recognizing that there would be no opportunity to complete these checkoffs during the fifteen-week OJT, the General Superintendent Plant Operations issued a letter on January 13, 1995, which waived completion of the fuel handling checkoffs until the May 1995 outage.

The four candidates completed the OJT requirements on February 13, 1995, except for the fuel handling checkoffs, and commenced the License Review course (classroom and simulator training) on February 16, 1995. SRO license applications were submitted on April 26, 1995. The NRC license examinations were conducted the week of May 15, 1995. SRO licenses were issued to the four candidates on June 1, 1995.

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On or about June 19, 1995, it was recognized that the license applications were inaccurate in that the fuel handling OJT portion of the training program had not been completed at the time of their submittal.

The four candidates completed the fuel handling OJT checkoffs on the following dates:

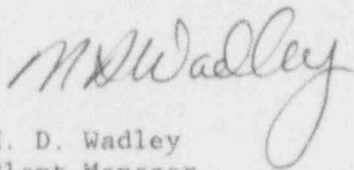
Jeffrey L. Hawkenson	7/20/95	Mark W. Johnson	5/24/95
Steven E. Schmidt	5/24/95	Mark K. Weigenant	5/30/95

Since their SRO licenses were issued, on June 1, the four candidates have had licensed operator duty as Lead Nuclear Plant Equipment and Reactor Operators during refueling outage, reactor startup, and/or power operations. The candidates have had no SRO duties, including supervision of fuel handling.

The error in the license applications occurred because training center and plant personnel involved in the deferral were different than those involved in preparing the license applications. Also, the need to document the incomplete status of the OJT requirement in the license applications was not recognized.

To prevent recurrence, the procedure for license applications will be revised, prior to its next use, to require documentation of any incomplete portions of the training program, and to ensure applications are reviewed by the individual coordinating the license class. This event will be discussed with all Operations Instructors and Prairie Island management personnel involved in the review and approval of license applications. In addition, the requirements for fuel handling checkoffs will be evaluated prior to the next SRO class to determine whether changes are needed.

If you have further questions or comments, please call Mr. Reynolds at 612-330-6275 X4030.



M. D. Wadley
Plant Manager

cc: Regional Administrator III, NRC
Senior Resident Inspector, NRC
NRR Project Manager, NRC
J E Silberg