

Public
IE-01

September 13, 1996

Mr. E. Watzl, Vice President
Nuclear Generation
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-282/306/72/96-07
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Watzl:

On August 15, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

You should note that this inspection report represents an integrated product of a number of diverse inspections that were conducted during the inspection period. The summary contained in the report provides an overview of our assessment of your performance in the four functional areas (Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, and Plant Support) in which inspections were performed.

During this inspection period, your conduct of activities at the Prairie Island facilities was generally characterized by proper operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support activities. The response of operators and the emergency response organization to the partial loss of offsite power and simultaneous dual unit trips from full power was considered excellent.

We are concerned with an example of poor configuration management that resulted in the violation which is being cited during this period. Both Unit 1 hydrogen monitor channels were inoperable from March 3 through May 15, 1996, because calibration equipment was degraded. This problem resulted from changing a regulator setting on an important accident mitigation system without adequate documentation and review. Although the issue was licensee-identified, the NRC elected not to exercise enforcement discretion because the degraded equipment could have caused confusion during an accident event and complicated recovery actions.

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This issue is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

Original signed by John A. Grobe
Acting Deputy Director, DRP
James L. Caldwell, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-282, 50-306, 72-10
License Nos: DPR-42, DPR-60, SNM-2506

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-282/306/72/96-07

cc w/encl: Plant Manager, Prairie Island
John W. Ferman, Ph.D.,
Nuclear Engineer, MPCA
State Liaison Officer, State
of Minnesota
State Liaison Officer, State
of Wisconsin
Tribal Council
Prairie Island Dakota Community

Docket File w/encl
PUBLIC IE-01 w/encl
OC/LFDCB w/encl
SRI Prairie Island,
Monticello w/encl
A. B. Beach, w/encl
(See attached concurrence)

DRP w/encl
RIII PRR w/encl
Prairie Island PM, NRR w/encl
IPAS (E-Mail) w/encl
RMB/FEES
B. L. Burgess, w/encl

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E. Watzl

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Sincerely,

J. L. Caldwell, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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