

October 25, 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION REPORTS 50-282/96011(DRS);
50-306/96011(DRS); 72-10/96011(DRS) AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Watzl:

On October 4, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel.

Our review indicated that performance remained strong in most areas within the radiation protection program. However, two issues were identified during the inspection that indicate that areas for improvement exist. In one issue, a radiation protection specialist (RPS) misread a contamination survey that was used to establish radiological controls for decontamination activities in the spent resin tank room. This is one of the most fundamental assignments for an RPS and mistakes of this nature are not expected to occur. The second issue concerned inconsistent response by RP staff to alarms on electronic self-reading dosimetry. It appears that a lack of clear procedural guidance contributed to this issue.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violation is of concern because a fully qualified radiation protection specialist did not adequately evaluate survey data. As a result, the radiation protection staff did not specify the use of engineering controls to control the concentration of radioactive material in air during work in the spent resin tank room.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document

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the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference or include previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules and Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Brent Clayton

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306
Licenses No. DPR-42; DPR-60; SNM-2506

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Reports No.
50-282/96011(DRS);
50-306/96011(DRS);
72-10/96011(DRS)

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:DRS\PRA96011.DRS

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