

November 5, 1996

*Prairie*

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-282/306/96010  
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Watzl:

On October 8, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, your conduct of activities at the Prairie Island facilities was generally acceptable. However, a concern was identified in our previous inspection regarding the implementation of your surveillance program. This area continues to be of concern to us. During this inspection, three additional surveillance problems were identified. One was NRC-identified and resulted in a long-term violation of Technical Specifications.

The violation 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,

/s/James L. Caldwell, Acting Director  
James L. Caldwell, Acting Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos: 50-282, 50-306  
License Nos: DPR-42, DPR-60

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-282/306/96010

(See attached distribution)

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cc w/encl: Plant Manager, Prairie Island  
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 Nuclear Engineer, MPCA  
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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

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