

November 14, 1996

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF EXAMINATION REPORT COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Watzl:

We have reviewed a letter from Mr. M. Wadley dated October 7, 1996, requesting clarification of comments in operator licensing examination report OL-96-01 with respect to procedural inadequacies; specifically "During the course of the examination, the examiners observed a number of operations procedures were lacking consistent, comprehensive operator actions to ensure continued safe operations during normal and abnormal conditions. These procedure discrepancies will be discussed in Inspection Reports 50-282/96007; 50-306/96007."

Inspection Report 96007 identifies two separate procedural issues. The first was observed when candidates had difficulty in the simulator responding to a degraded voltage event. The procedure referenced in the annunciator response procedure did not exist and the crew members took actions they deemed necessary without procedural guidance. The second involved a lack of recording "as found" surveillance test data. Although these issues had been identified by you, it still showed a weakness in procedures.

At the time the examination report was issued an additional procedure violation was believed to exist. This item was identified by an examiner and involved a potential violation for an inadequate surveillance procedure. This item in concert with the two examples of procedural problems identified in Inspection Report 96007 formed the basis for the comment in the examination report. However, during independent review of the matter before proceeding with a violation, the surveillance procedure was determined to be satisfactory and therefore this issue was not discussed in Inspection Report 96007.

Based upon the issues described above, we do not feel you have a significant problem with operational procedures; however, some additional attention to procedure details may be warranted.

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We will gladly discuss any questions you may have relative to this letter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Brent Clayton (for)

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-282

Docket No. 50-306

cc: Plant Manager, Prairie Island
John W. Fermar, Ph.D.
Nuclear Engineer, MPCA
State Liaison Officer, State
of Minnesota
State Liaison Officer, State
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Tribal Council, Prairie Island
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