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November 27, 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC PRAIRIE ISLAND SECURITY INSPECTION REPORTS NO.  
50-282/96013(DRS); 50-306/96013(DRS); 72-10/96013(DRS)

Dear Mr. Watzl:

On October 11, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant reactor facility. 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, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress. The objective of the inspection effort was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. The summary contained in the report provides an overview of our assessment of your performance in the area of physical security.

The purposes of the inspection were to continue the security core inspection as identified in Inspection Procedure 81700, to review the status of previous open inspection findings, and to review the security portion of the updated FSAR.

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 and the circumstances pertaining to the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. The violation is of concern because it was identified by the NRC and demonstrated that the security staff was unaware of an important requirement, clearly delineated in the security plan, pertaining to review of potential security and safety conflicts. This violation is being cited because it was identified by the NRC, occurred over a two year period, and was not identified through self assessment efforts during the two year period.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is addressed in Section S3 of the Report Details. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the information in Section S3 of the Report Details does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position, or if you choose to provide additional information.

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November 27, 1996

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Geoffrey E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-282; 50-306; 72-10  
Licenses No. DPR-42; DPR-60; SNM-2506

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation  
2. Inspection Reports No.  
50-282/96013(DRS);  
50-306/96013(DRS);  
72-10/96013(DRS)

cc w/encls: 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

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