

April 14, 1997

DCs
PDR

EA 96-402

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

Gentlemen:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 24, 1997, and your wire transfer for \$50,000 on February 18, 1997, in payment for the civil penalty proposed by NRC in a letter dated January 23, 1997.

We have reviewed your proposed corrective actions to prevent recurrence, and noted that they included: performance, in early 1996, of an independent assessment of your safety evaluation process; development of a screening process to determine the need for documented safety evaluations; revision of the administrative procedure for safety evaluations; and ensuring attendance of senior plant managers at NRC exit meetings. We find these measures adequate. It is our understanding that you intend to brief, your technical staff and management, and the Operations Committee members on the circumstances leading to this violation. The briefing would include initiatives taken by your staff to heighten awareness as to when changes to the design basis of the plant require NRC involvement, as well as maintaining and properly changing the plant licensing basis. Finally, our expectation is that these briefings would stress the need to properly identify non-conservative assumptions contained in design changes, to communicate those assumptions among all levels of your staff, and to resolve any resultant issues without dependence upon NRC intervention.

While no written response to this letter is necessary, should your understanding of your corrective actions differ from ours as described above, please inform us, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Your corrective actions will be examined during future inspections.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
James Lieberman

James Lieberman, Director
Office of Enforcement

Docket Nos. 50-282, 50-306
License Nos. DPR-42, DPR-60
cc: A. B. Beach, RA, RIII

DISTRIBUTION:

JLieberman, OE
MSatorius, OE
BBonser
BClayton, RIII
Day File
EA File

* REC'D RIII CONCURRENCE VIA EMAIL

PDR	NUDOCS	OE	RA:RIII	DD:OE <i>ms</i>	D:OE <i>X</i>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES	<i>[Signature]</i> BBonser	ABBeach <i>*</i>	MSatorius	JLieberman
NO	NO	4/11/97	4/11/97	4/11/97	4/12/97

Doc Name: G:\OECASES\EA96402.ACK

9704150167 970414
PDR ADDCK 05000282
G PDR



IE1410