



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

October 17, 2012

Mr. Jim Lynch
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089

**SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2**

Dear Mr. Lynch:

As a result of its continuous review of plant performance, the NRC updated its assessment of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2. The NRC's evaluation consisted of a review of performance indicators and inspection results. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility. This letter supplements, but does not supersede, the mid-cycle letter issued on September 4, 2012.

On February 16, 2012, the NRC forwarded a letter that stated the final significance determination of one or more greater-than-green inspection findings in the Security Cornerstone. The finding, which occurred in the fourth quarter of 2011, was previously documented and assessed in NRC Inspection Report 05000282/2011408; 05000306/2011408.

On August 31, 2012, the NRC completed a supplemental inspection in accordance with Inspection Procedure 95001, "Inspection for One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area." The results of this inspection were documented in NRC Inspection Report 05000282/2012406; 05000306/2012406.

Therefore, in accordance with the guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," the greater-than-green finding will only be considered in assessing plant performance for a total of four quarters. As a result, the NRC determined the performance at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 to be in the Licensee Response Column of the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix as of the date of this letter.

J. Lynch

-2-

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Please contact me at 630-829-9628 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kenneth Riemer, Branch Chief
Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-282; 50-306; 72-010
License Nos.: DPR-42; DPR-60; SNM-2506

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J. Lynch

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