



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

November 29, 2018

Mr. Scott Sharp
Site Vice President
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
1717 Wakonade Drive East
Welch, MN 55089-9642

SUBJECT: PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT,
UNITS 1 AND 2—NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000288/2018301 AND 05000306/2018301

Dear Mr. Sharp:

On October 2, 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed the initial operator licensing examination process for license applicants employed at your Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant. The enclosed report documents the results of those examinations. Preliminary observations noted during the examination process were discussed on September 18, 2018, with you and other members of your facility's staff. An exit meeting was conducted by telephone on October 16, 2018, between you and Mr. R. Baker, Operator Licensing Chief Examiner, to review the proposed final grading of the written examination for the license applicants. During the telephone conversation, the NRC confirmed that the station did not have any post-examination comments requiring resolution.

The NRC examiners administered an initial license examination operating test during the weeks of September 10 and 17, 2018. The written examination was administered by the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Station training department personnel on September 20, 2018. Eleven Senior Reactor Operator and four Reactor Operator applicants were administered license examinations. The results of the examinations were finalized on October 30, 2018. All fifteen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations and eleven applicants were issued senior operator licenses and four applicants were issued operator licenses for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2.

The administered written examinations and operating tests, as well as documents related to the development and review of the examinations (outlines, proposed examinations, review comments, and resolutions, etc.), will be withheld from public disclosure for 24 months until October 2, 2020.

This letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection and copying at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> and at the NRC's Public Document Room in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding."

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert J. Orlikowski, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosures:

1. OL Examination
Report 05000288/2018301;
05000306/2018301
2. Simulation Facility Fidelity Report

cc: Distribution via LISTSERV®
T. Wadley, Training Manager,
Prairie Island Nuclear Generating
Plant

Letter to Scott Sharp from Robert Orlikowski dated November 29, 2018.

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UNITS 1 AND 2—NRC INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION
REPORT 05000288/2018301 AND 05000306/2018301

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket Nos: 50-288; 50-306

License Nos: DPR-42; DPR-60

Report No: 05000288/2018301; 05000306/2018301

Licensee: Northern States Power Company, Minnesota

Facility: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2

Location: Welch, MN

Dates: September 10, 2018, through October 2, 2018

Inspectors: R. Baker, Senior Operations Engineer, Chief Examiner
C. Zoia, Senior Operations Engineer, Examiner
B. Bergeon, Operations Engineer, Examiner

Approved by: R. Orlikowski, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY

Examination Report 050002886/2018301; 05000306/2018301; 09/10/2018-10/02/2018; Northern States Power Company, Minnesota; Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2; Initial License Examination Report.

The announced initial operator licensing examination was conducted by regional Nuclear Regulatory Commission examiners in accordance with the guidance of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 11.

Examination Summary

Fifteen of fifteen applicants passed all sections of their respective examinations. Eleven applicants were issued senior operator licenses and four applicants were issued operator licenses for Units 1 and 2. (Section 4OA5.1).

REPORT DETAILS

4OA5 Other Activities

.1 Initial Licensing Examinations

a. Examination Scope

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) examiners and members of the facility licensee's staff used the guidance prescribed in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," Revision 11, to develop, validate, administer, and grade the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners prepared the written examination outline and members of the facility licensee's staff prepared the operating test outlines. Members of the facility licensee's staff developed the written examination and operating test. The NRC examiners validated the proposed examination, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff, during the week of August 13, 2018. During the onsite validation week, the examiners audited two of the license applications for accuracy. The NRC examiners, with the assistance of members of the facility licensee's staff, administered the operating test, consisting of job performance measures and dynamic simulator scenarios, during the period of September 10 through 17, 2018. The facility licensee administered the written examination on September 20, 2018.

b. Findings

(1) Written Examination

The NRC examiners determined that the written examination, as proposed by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. Less than 20 percent of the proposed examination questions were determined to be unsatisfactory and required modification or replacement. All changes made to the proposed written examination were made in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," and were documented on Form ES-401-9, "Written Examination Review Worksheet." The written examination outlines and worksheets, the proposed written examination and worksheets, as well as the final Form ES-401-9, and the final as-administered examination and answer key, will be publicly available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) on October 2, 2020. (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML17165A321, ML17165A322, ML17165A317, and ML17165A318, respectively.)

On October 2, 2018, the licensee submitted documentation noting that there were no post-examination facility licensee comments, and no post-examination applicant comments for consideration by the NRC examiners when grading the written examination.

The NRC examiners graded the written examination on October 15, 2018, and conducted a review of each missed question to determine the accuracy and validity of the examination questions.

(2) Operating Test

The NRC examiners determined that the operating test, as originally proposed by the licensee, was within the range of acceptability expected for a proposed examination. All changes made to the operating test were made in accordance with NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," and were documented on Form ES-301-7, "Operating Test Review Worksheet." The operating test outlines and worksheets, the proposed operating test and worksheets, as well as the final Form ES-301-7, and the final as-administered operating test, will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS, on October 2, 2020. (ADAMS Accession Numbers ML17165A321, ML17165A322, ML17165A317, and ML17165A318, respectively.)

On October 2, 2018, the licensee submitted documentation noting that there were no post-examination facility licensee comments, and no post-examination applicant comments for consideration by the NRC examiners when grading the operating test.

The NRC examiners completed operating test grading on October 16, 2018.

(3) Examination Results

Eleven applicants at the Senior Reactor Operator level and four applicants at the Reactor Operator level were administered written examinations and operating tests. All applicants passed all portions of their examinations and were issued their respective operating licenses for Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 on October 30, 2018.

.2 Examination Security

a. Scope

The NRC examiners reviewed and observed the licensee's implementation of examination security requirements during the examination validation and administration to assure compliance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 55.49, "Integrity of Examinations and Tests." The examiners used the guidelines provided in NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors," to determine acceptability of the licensee's examination security activities.

b. Findings

No findings were identified.

4OA6 Management Meetings

.1 Debrief

The chief examiner presented the examination team's preliminary observations and findings on September 18, 2018, to Mr. S. Sharp, Site Vice President, and other members of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Operations and Training Department staff.

.2 Exit Meeting

A telephone exit meeting was conducted on October 16, 2018, by Mr. R. Baker, Operator Licensing Chief Examiner, with Mr. S. Sharp, Site Vice President, and other members of the licensee staff. The NRC confirmed that there were no post-examination comments during the telephone discussion. The examiner asked the licensee whether any of the material used to develop or administer the examination should be considered proprietary. No proprietary or sensitive information was identified during the examination or debrief/exit meetings.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee

S. Sharp, Site Vice President
H. Hanson, Plant Manager
M. Peterson, Fleet General Supervisor Operations Training
T. Wadley, Training Manager
J. Connors, Regulatory Affairs Manager

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

L. Haeg, Senior Resident Inspector
K. Pusateri, Resident Inspector
R. Baker, Chief Examiner

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened, Closed, and Discussed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ADAMS	Agencywide Document Access and Management System
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

SIMULATION FACILITY FIDELITY REPORT

Facility Licensee: Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2

Facility Docket Nos: 50-288; 50-306

Operating Tests Administered: September 10-17, 2018

The following documents observations made by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission examination team during the initial operator license examination. These observations do not constitute audit or inspection findings and are not, without further verification and review, indicative of non-compliance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 55.45(b). These observations do not affect U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission certification or approval of the simulation facility other than to provide information which may be used in future evaluations. No licensee action is required in response to these observations.

During the conduct of the simulator portion of the operating tests, the following items were observed:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
SWO B8D-056	On the September 13, 2018, during the first run of Scenario #4, Event #3, the pressurizer pressure master controller, 1HC431K (4304101), Manual/Auto switch failed to shift to the manual position. The applicant took manual control of the pressurizer spray valves and heaters for the remainder of the scenario, which did not adversely impact the remaining scenario events. The switch was repaired following completion of the scenario and, and the controller failure did not recur during subsequent scenarios.