



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

September 1, 2010

Mr. Timothy J. O'Connor
Site Vice President
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT**

Dear Mr. O' Connor:

On August 5, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the Security Cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter at Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility.

Additionally, the staff has identified a cross-cutting theme in the area of problem identification and resolution (PI&R) with the aspect of Evaluation and Extent (P.1(c)). During this assessment period, there were five findings documented with cross-cutting aspects in the PI&R area. There was a cross-cutting theme in the area of PI&R because four of these findings shared a common cross-cutting Evaluation/Extent aspect (P.1(c)) and were from different cornerstones. You recognized this cross-cutting theme and have implemented a range of actions to address this trend. Because many of these actions were implemented recently, a reasonable duration of time has not passed to determine the effectiveness of these corrective actions. Therefore, the NRC does not propose a substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of PI&R at this time. However, we will continue monitor the effectiveness of your corrective actions to address this cross-cutting theme through our baseline inspections.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through December 31, 2011. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Kenneth Riemer at (630) 829-9628 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kenneth Riemer, Chief
Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

Enclosure: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServe

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection, scheduled through December 31, 2011. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 9 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Kenneth Riemer at (630) 829-9628 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kenneth Riemer, Chief
Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

Enclosure: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServe

DISTRIBUTION:

See next page

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\BRANCH TSS\ALL MOC\MIDCYCLE 2010 TO 2011\MIDCYCLE LETTERS\MONTICELLO MOC LETTER 2010.DOCX

Publicly Available Non-Publicly Available Sensitive Non-Sensitive

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the concurrence box "C" = Copy without attach/encl

"E" = Copy with attach/encl "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RIII	N	RIII	N	RIII		RIII	
NAME	NShah:cs		KRiemer					
DATE	08/26/10		08/26/10					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to T. O'Connor from K. Riemer dated September 1, 2010

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN –
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

DISTRIBUTION:

Susan Bagley

RidsNrrDorLpl3-1 Resource

RidsNrrPMMonticello

RidsNrrDirIrib Resource

Steven Reynolds

Steven Orth

Jared Heck

Allan Barker

DRPIII

DRSIII

Patricia Buckley

Tammy Tomczak

[ROPreports Resource](#)

Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2010 - 12/31/2011

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY-OPS/MAINT/RP/PLN/ETC		2
09/01/2010	12/31/2010	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		BI PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		5
09/13/2010	10/01/2010	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
11/01/2010	11/05/2010	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
11/01/2010	11/05/2010	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
		OL PREP - MONTICELLO INIT PREP - NOV. 2010		3
11/15/2010	11/19/2010	W90221	OL - INITIAL EXAM - DEC 2010 - MONT	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
11/29/2010	12/03/2010	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	
		OL EXAM - MONTICELLO INIT EXAM - DEC. 2010		3
12/06/2010	12/17/2010	W90221	OL - INITIAL EXAM - DEC 2010 - MONT	
		UPRATE - POWER UPRATE - FAC/EC NON-OUTAGE PORTION		1
02/07/2011	02/11/2011	IP 71004	Power Uprate	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
01/31/2011	02/04/2011	IP 71124.05	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation	
01/31/2011	02/04/2011	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
01/31/2011	02/04/2011	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
01/31/2011	02/04/2011	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
		BI ENG - INSERVICE INSPECTION & UPRATE		1
03/05/2011	05/09/2011	IP 71004	Power Uprate	
03/05/2011	05/09/2011	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
		UPRATE - POWER UPRATE FAC/EC OUTAGE PORTION		1
03/05/2011	05/09/2011	IP 71004	Power Uprate	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
03/07/2011	03/11/2011	IP 2515/179	Verification of Licensee Responses to NRC Requirement for Inventories of Materials Tracked in NSTS	
03/07/2011	03/11/2011	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
		BI ENG - TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTION		3
06/13/2011	07/15/2011	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection [Triennial]	
		BI EP - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		4
08/22/2011	08/26/2011	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
08/22/2011	08/26/2011	IP 71151-EP01	Drill/Exercise Performance	
08/22/2011	08/26/2011	IP 71151-EP02	ERO Drill Participation	

Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2010 - 12/31/2011

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		BI EP - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		4
08/22/2011	08/26/2011	IP 71151-EP03	Alert & Notification System	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
10/01/2011	10/31/2011	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
09/19/2011	09/23/2011	IP 71124.06	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment	
09/19/2011	09/23/2011	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	
		BI OL - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM EVAL		2
10/17/2011	10/21/2011	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
11/14/2011	11/18/2011	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	