

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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MONTICELLO NUCLEAR PLANT RATED "SUPERIOR" IN THREE AREAS,
"GOOD" IN ONE AREA IN LATEST SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant has received performance ratings of "superior" in plant operations, maintenance, and plant support and "good" in engineering in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for the facility.

The SALP report was sent August 29 to Northern States Power Company (NSP), which operates the plant in Monticello, Minnesota. It evaluates the plant's performance from December 25, 1994, through July 20.

The NRC staff and NSP officials will discuss the assessment during a meeting set for 1 p.m. on September 10 at the Monticello Training Center on the plant site. The meeting will be open for public observation. NRC officials will be available afterwards to speak with reporters, state and local officials, and members of the public.

NRC SALP reports rate utilities in four functional areas -- plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support -- and assign ratings of Category 1, 2, or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas was superior, good or acceptable. The report on Monticello gives the plant a "Category 1" rating in plant operations, maintenance, and plant support, indicating superior performance. It assigns a rating of "Category 2" to engineering, indicating good performance.

NRC Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach, in a letter to the utility, said: "...the conduct of nuclear activities at Monticello was excellent overall, and was properly focused on nuclear safety."

"Monticello's performance was characterized by strong management involvement and a conservative approach to safe operations," he added. "Interdepartmental communications, teamwork, and work controls were strong."

Mr. Beach noted that human performance improvements were seen during this SALP in routine operations and outages. However, weaknesses in design engineering were observed late in this SALP evaluation period.

The ratings for each functional area of this report and the previous report were:

<u>Functional Area</u>	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>
Operations	1	2
Maintenance	1	1
Engineering	2	1
Plant Support	1	1

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NOTE: A copy of the full report may be obtained from the Region III Office of Public Affairs at the telephone numbers or e-mail address above.

SALP reports are now available on the internet at: <<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>>. Reports for all plants in the U.S. may be obtained when they are issued through an internet e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail addressed to listproc@nrc.gov with the following message: subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.