

August 7, 2000

Mr. Michael D. Wadley, President
NSP Nuclear Generation
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO AND PRAIRIE ISLAND NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANTS -
REQUEST TO WITHHOLD INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
(TAC NO. MA9600)

Dear Mr. Wadley:

By letter and affidavit dated July 27, 2000, Northern States Power Company (NSP) submitted its "Notification of Closing of Transfer" and requested it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790.

Your affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

The material for which exemption from disclosure is sought is confidential commercial information.

The information is transmitted in confidence to the NRC. The information is considered company confidential and has been held in confidence by NSP.

The information is of the type customarily held in confidence by NSP until official public disclosure is made pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules, and the rationale basis is that NSP would be prohibited from making selective public disclosure of this information.

The anticipated specified date certain for closing of the merger is not currently available from public sources and will not be publicly disclosed (if at all) until after receipt of the SEC order.

Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause harm to NSP's, its shareholders', or prospective purchasers' competitive position; SEC regulations do not permit selective disclosure of material information. NSP and New Century Energies, Inc. (NCE), believe that the specificity provided in the July 27, 2000, letter regarding the potential closing date may be considered material and would need to be publicly disclosed at the same time. NSP and NCE have not and will not disclose a planned closing date to the public until at least after receiving an order approving the merger from the SEC. NSP's failure to withhold this information, until such time as a public disclosure is made, may allow others to claim harm causing the potential for expenditures that would harm NSP's shareholders.

M. Wadley

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We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure. Therefore, NSP's letter dated July 27, 2000, "Notification of Closing of Transfer," marked as proprietary, will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information. If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future so that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You should also understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination contrary to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-2296.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-263, 50-282, and 50-306

cc: See next page

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Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
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Accession No. ML003738218

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

cc:

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Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant,
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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