

January 29, 2001

Mr. M. Hammer
Site General Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO - RESOLUTION OF UNRESOLVED SECURITY ISSUE

Dear Mr. Hammer:

Section 3PP2.b.1 of Monticello Inspection Report No. 50-263/2000013, dated June 12, 2000, identified an unresolved item pertaining to access to vital areas. 10 CFR 73.55(d)(7) and section 8.1 of the Monticello security plan requires access to vital areas to be limited to personnel authorized and who need access to the areas to perform non-emergency duties. During the inspection, a six month card history was run for six randomly selected persons and a comparison was made to the vital areas authorized and entry into those areas for the six month period. This review showed that in all cases personnel had been granted access to one or more vital areas that they had not entered within the past six months. The unresolved item was whether the frequency of access to a vital area needs to be considered when determining work-related need for vital area access.

The NRC has concluded that the frequency of access to a vital area should be closely reviewed by supervisors when reviewing the justification for granting continued access. However, the lack of frequent access to a vital area is not a singular cause to deny access. Such occasions of infrequent access are expected to be exceptions (e.g., fire brigade members, EMTs, first responders, etc.) since most plants have procedural guidance that allow timely changes to access levels for outages and other known work projects. Individual supervisors (rather than the security organization) bear the primary regulatory responsibility for limiting vital area access authorization to personnel with legitimate non-emergency work related needs. We have concluded that your activities complied with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be 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 Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

James R. Creed
Safeguards Program Manager
Division of Reactor Safety

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

cc: Plant Manager, Monticello
M. Wadley, Chief Nuclear Officer
S. Northard, Nuclear Asset Manager
M. Roth, Site Licensing Manager
J. Malcolm, Commissioner, Minnesota
Department of Health
J. Silberg, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge
R. Nelson, President
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
D. Gruber, Auditor/Treasurer
Wright County Government Center
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Commerce
A. Neblett, Assistant Attorney General

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James R. Creed
Safeguards Program Manager
Division of Reactor Safety

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