

September 28, 1989

Docket No. 50-263

Mr. Thomas M. Parker, Manager
Nuclear Support Services
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

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Dear Mr. Parker:

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (TACS NOS. 69146, 71517
AND 72861)

Enclosed is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" for your information. This assessment relates to your application dated March 31, 1989, for changes relating to the Technical Specifications for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Please contact the Monticello Project Manager, W. Long (301) 492-1323 if you have any questions concerning this action.

Sincerely,

original signed by

William O. Long, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V & Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Northern States Power Company
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William O. Long".

William O. Long, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V & Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. T. M. Parker, Manager
Northern States Power Company

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

cc:

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Commissioners
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Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONNORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANYMONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANTDOCKET NO. 50-263ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-22 issued to Northern States Power Company (the licensee) for operation of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, located in Wright County, Minnesota.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

In accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated March 31, 1989, the proposed amendment would revise the Technical Specifications to: (1) revise the reactor vessel pressure vs. temperature (P/T) curves for consistency with Revision 2 of Regulatory Guide 1.99, "Radiation Embrittlement of Reactor Coolant Materials," (2) add requirements, consistent with Generic Letter 88-01, for augmented inservice inspection of piping susceptible to intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC); and (3) revise the requirements for the periodic Type A containment integrated leak rate test (CILRT) to permit the use of the mass point test method approved by the Commission in a recent change to 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on November 15, 1988 (53 FR 45891).

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment is needed in order to bring the requirements of the facility Technical Specifications into consistency with the current regulatory

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requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, and the Commission's positions of Generic Letters 88-01 and 88-11. The CILRT change is necessary to bring the Technical Specifications into consistency with current regulations and an exemption issued to the licensee on October 21, 1988.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed amendment to the Technical Specifications. The proposed amendment would implement procedural, testing and administrative changes for which the Commission has previously concluded, as demonstrated through the issuance of Regulatory Guides and an Exemption, would not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, change the types or quantities of radiological or nonradiological effluents that may be released offsite, or significant increase the individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this action would result in no significant environmental impact.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on June 1, 1989 (54 FR 23553). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

The Commission has concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed amendment; any alternatives to the amendment will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources beyond the scope of resources used during normal plant operation, which have been previously

considered by the Commission in the Final Environmental Statement dated November 22, 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's analysis supporting the proposed amendment. The staff did not consult with other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated March 31, 1989, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 28th day of September 1989 .

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

John O. Thoma

John O. Thoma, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V & Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation