

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
 Nuclear Energy Engineering
 Northern States Power Company
 414 Nicollet Mall
 Minneapolis, MN 55401

September 3, 1997

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RE: ISSUANCE OF ONE-TIME EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 50, APPENDIX E, SECTION IV.F.2.C REGARDING BIENNIAL OFFSITE EXERCISE (TAC NO. M99439)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your request for an exemption dated August 18, 1997. The proposed one-time exemption to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2.c, would allow the Northern States Power Company to exercise only the onsite portion of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant's emergency preparedness plans during the scheduled 1997 biennial exercise. The licensee requested the exemption because the State and local counties within the emergency planning zone have requested relief from the Federal Emergency Management Agency from participation in the offsite portion of the scheduled 1997 exercise due to hardships caused by recent natural disasters.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager
 Project Directorate III-1
 Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Distribution:

Docket File
 PUBLIC
 PD31 r/f
 JMcCormick-Barger, RIII

OGC
 ACRS
 EAdensam (EGA1)

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\WPDOCS\MONTICELLO\MON99439.EA

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	PD31:PM	E	PD31:LA	E	C:PG&B	E	OGC	JK	N	PD31:PD
NAME	TJKim <i>JK</i>		CJamerson		DMatthews <i>ok</i>		J. Hull			JHann <i>JK</i>
DATE	8/28/97		9/2/97		8/29/97 <i>JK</i>		9/2/97			9/3/97

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

9709080087 970903
 PDR ADOCK 05000263
 F PDR





UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 3, 1997

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Nuclear Energy Engineering
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT - ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RE:
ISSUANCE OF ONE-TIME EXEMPTION FROM THE
REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 50, APPENDIX E, SECTION IV.F.2.C
REGARDING BIENNIAL OFFSITE EXERCISE (TAC NO. M99439)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your request for an exemption dated August 18, 1997. The proposed one-time exemption to Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2.c, would allow the Northern States Power Company to exercise only the onsite portion of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant's emergency preparedness plans during the scheduled 1997 biennial exercise. The licensee requested the exemption because the State and local counties within the emergency planning zone have requested relief from the Federal Emergency Management Agency from participation in the offsite portion of the scheduled 1997 exercise due to hardships caused by recent natural disasters.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tae Kim".

Tae Kim, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Roger O. Anderson, Director
Northern States Power Company

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

cc:

J. E. Silberg, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N. W.
Washington DC 20037

Kris Sanda, Commissioner
Department of Public Service
121 Seventh Place East
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2145

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspector's Office
2807 W. County Road 75
Monticello, Minnesota 55362

Adonis A. Neblett
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
445 Minnesota Street
Suite 900
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2127

Plant Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
ATTN: Site Licensing
Northern States Power Company
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, Minnesota 55362-9637

Mike McMullen [5]
Environmental Review Coordinator
EPA Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Robert Nelson, President
Minnesota Environmental Control
Citizens Association (MECCA)
1051 South McKnight Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55119

Commissioner
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55119

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Commissioner of Health
Minnesota Department of Health
717 Delaware Street, S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

Darla Groshens, Auditor/Treasurer
Wright County Government Center
10 NW Second Street
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY****DOCKET NO. 50-263****MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT****ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF****NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering granting an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2.c, to Northern States Power Company, (the licensee), in connection with the operation of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, located in Wright County, Minnesota, under Facility Operating License No. DPR-22.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**Identification of the Proposed Action:**

By letter dated August 18, 1997, the licensee requested an exemption to Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, Appendix E, Section IV.F.2.c. The proposed exemption would allow the licensee to exercise only the onsite portion of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant's emergency preparedness plans during the scheduled 1997 biennial exercise. The licensee requested the exemption because the State and local counties within the emergency planning zone have requested relief from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from participation in the offsite portion of the scheduled 1997 exercise due to hardships caused by recent natural disasters.

9709080089 970903
PDR ADDOCK 05000263
F PDR

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is deemed necessary since the requirement for the State and local counties to participate in the offsite portion of the exercise is beyond the licensee's control. The licensee requested this one-time exemption in support of the State of Minnesota's request for relief from FEMA requirements in 10 CFR Part 44 to biennially exercise offsite emergency plans. The State and local counties requested relief from FEMA requirements (in accordance with Section 350.9.c of 10 CFR Part 44) due to the hardships caused by recent natural disasters. In a letter dated August 12, 1997, to FEMA Region V, the State of Minnesota provided the specific justifications for its relief request.

Section 50.54(q) of 10 CFR Part 50 requires a licensee authorized to operate a nuclear power reactor to follow and maintain in effect emergency plans that meet the standards of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50. Section IV.F.2.c of Appendix E requires that offsite plans for each site shall be exercised biennially with full participation by each offsite authority having a role under the plan. The NRC may, however, grant exemptions from the requirements of the regulations which, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), are (1) authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security, and (2) present special circumstances.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action involves administrative activities unrelated to plant operation. The proposed action will not increase the types or amounts of effluents that may be released offsite, nor increase occupational or offsite radiation exposure. The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

The proposed action will not result in a change in nonradiological plant effluents and will have no other nonradiological environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. The Commission concludes that granting this one-time exemption would not result in any significant environmental impact.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the request would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant dated November 22, 1972.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on September 3, 1997, the staff consulted with the Minnesota State official, Mr. Michael McCarthy of the Department of Public Services, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the 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 action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated August 18, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Minneapolis Public Library, Technology and Science Department, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 3rd day of September 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Beth A. Wetzel, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation