

EXHIBIT 3

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

**OF THE IMPACTS OF MNGP POWER RERATE
THE NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
MONTICELLO, MINNESOTA**

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internal file*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP) is owned and operated by Northern States Power Company (NSP) and is located on the southwest bank of the Mississippi River at 45 degrees 20 minutes N latitude and 93 degrees 50 minutes W longitude, within the city limits of Monticello, Wright County, Minnesota (NSP, 1990) (Figure 1).

NSP plans to amend its current operating license to increase the power level from 1670 mega-watts thermal to 1775 mega-watts thermal (a 6.3% increase in output). No major construction activities are required or proposed for the propose MNGP Power Rerate which would extend the requirements for laydown areas and other land uses beyond those employed during prior major maintenance outages. In prior outages, all activities were restricted to the area within the inner plant security fence and any future maintenance or modification activities would be similarly confined. Therefore, disturbance of additional lands located outside the inner plant security fence will not occur.

In accordance with provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and 10 CFR Part 51, NSP contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to solicit information regarding listed and candidate threatened and endangered species occurring within a 5-mile vicinity of MNGP (Eiden, 1991; Attachment A). The National Marine Fisheries Service was not contacted as no true anadromous fish species are known to occur in this portion of the Mississippi River more than 1,000 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. No anadromous species have been collected in more than 20 years of monitoring by NSP at MNGP. In addition, correspondence with MDNR indicates that no threatened, endangered, or special concern species of fish or shellfish are known to occur in the Mississippi River in the vicinity of MNGP (Eliason, 1991; Attachment B).

In response to an NSP inquiry, the FWS reported that the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was the only Federally listed species that may be present within the 5-mile radius of MNGP (Lewis, 1991; Attachment C). Recent correspondence with the MDNR provided information on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the MNGP vicinity (Eliason, 1991; Attachment B). MDNR reported the presence of two threatened species, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) and Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), within a 5-mile radius of MNGP.

NSP has also included the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and the trumpeter swan (*Cygnusbuccinator*) in this biological assessment because these species are known to occur in the vicinity of the MNGP site.

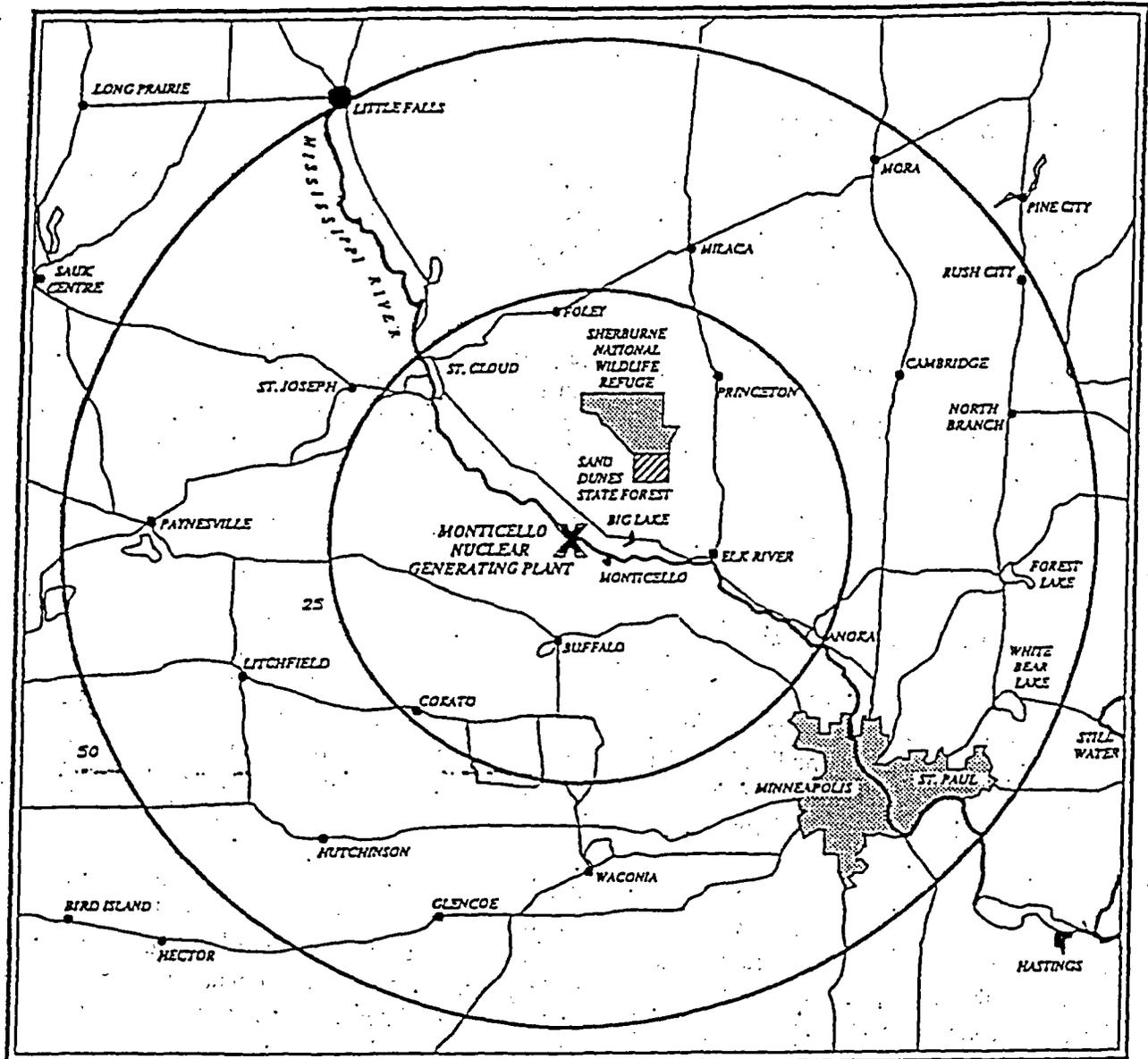


Figure 1. Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant and Environs within Approximately 50 Miles

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of this Biological Assessment is to provide information on the environmental effects of a requested amendment to Operating License DPR-22, Docket No. 50-263, for Northern States Power Company's (NSP's) Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP). The requested amendment proposes an increase in the MNGP Operating License maximum power level from 1670 mega-watts thermal to 1775 mega-watts thermal, as well as supporting changes to the MNGP Technical Specifications. This change reflects an increase of approximately 6.3% above the currently licensed power level of 1670 mega-watts thermal. This proposed action supports the MNGP project commonly referred to as Power Rerate. The proposed change to a maximum power level to 1775 mega-watts thermal reflects the maximum power level NSP will seek based on this environmental review.

2.1 MODIFICATIONS

NSP has identified potential modification activities required to support Power Rerate. None of the identified activities will require a major outage as defined by Regulatory Guide 4.2. Replacement of the reactor recirculation piping at MNGP, identified by the NRC as a major activity, was performed in 1984.

The major plant systems affected by the Power Rerate are the turbine generator, condensate/feedwater, and plant electrical systems. In general, these systems can be modified to support the increased flows and electrical generation that result from Power Rerate. The main modifications required for a 106.3% rerate are to the turbine (performed in 1996) and to the condensate pump motors. For the condensate pump motors a replacement is the most likely option to accommodate increased condensate flow. The generator cooling subsystems will also be modified to increase cooling capability for support of increased generator capability.

2.2 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE UNDER MNGP POWER RERATE

Plant operating practices are not expected to change under license amendment in a manner that could result in environmental impacts. NSP will operate MNGP within current Technical Specification Limits as proposed to be modified by the license amendment and submitted to support the MNGP Power Rerate Project. Because major design changes are not anticipated, basic plant operating parameters such as thermal performance, and fuel burnup characteristics are not expected to change.

Some changes to the MNGP Inspection, Surveillance, Testing, and Maintenance program are predicted, mainly to monitor newly installed equipment and components. These changes will be integrated into the existing program. Additional construction activities will not be required since the impacts of these changes will be confined to existing structures and components. In summary, no significant changes in plant operating practices, inspections, maintenance activities, or administrative control procedures relevant to Chapter 2 issues will be required.

3.0

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT SITE DESCRIPTION

The MNGP site consists of approximately 2,150 acres of land owned in fee by NSP. Part of this property is on the northeast bank of the Mississippi River in Sherburne County and part is on the southwest bank in Wright County. The entire MNGP property is surrounded by an outer fence which delineates the property boundaries. A smaller, inner plant security fence is located within the outer MNGP fenced area and surrounds the constructed plant facilities (Figure 2). The land within the security fence is predominantly covered by existing facilities, gravel, or pavement. The area outside the security fence, between the security fence and the outer MNGP property fence, is approximately 60 percent open fields and 40 percent woodland. The open fields are predominantly old agricultural fields that have been allowed to revert to grasses and weeds although some land on the northeast side of the river is leased to area farmers for agricultural production. Aerial photos indicate that a portion of the land outside and near the inner plant security fence was disturbed during the original construction of MNGP so that no native vegetation remains, with the exception of a small tract of prairie grasses planted along the plant entrance road. The upland woodlands are predominantly northern pin oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), and prickly ash

(*Zanthoxylum americana*). Bottomland wetlands along the northeast bank of the river and on the river islands are predominantly American elm (*Ulmus americana*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), and black willow (*Salix nigra*) (personal communication with D. J. Orr, Senior Biologist, Northern States Power Company, September 10, 1991).

The undeveloped portion of the MNGP site provides relatively good wildlife habitat. White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) have been observed and are relatively common in the adjacent woodlands. Other common mammals include grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), jack rabbit (*Lepus* sp.), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), red fox (*Vulpes fulva*), and grassland rodents. Waterfowl use is limited to use of the river corridor for nesting and loafing by species such as Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*), mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and woodducks (*Aix sponsa*). Other bird species present include the grassland/woodland transition species common throughout the area such as western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), robin (*Turdus migratorius*), blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).

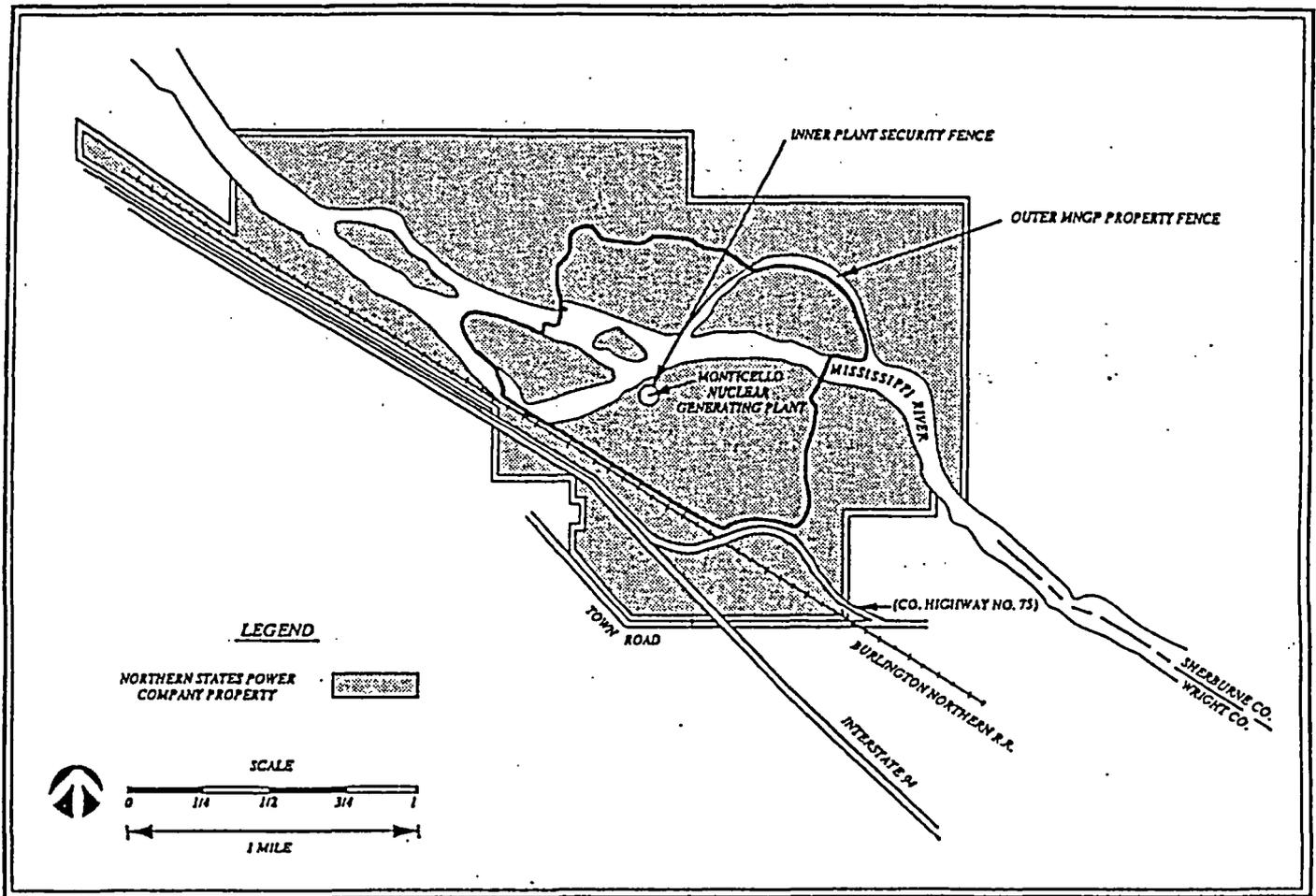


Figure 2. Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Environs

4.0 THREATENED/ENDANGERED SPECIES

4.1 BALD EAGLE - (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

4.1.1 Life History

The bald eagle is classified as State and Federally threatened in Minnesota; however, the bald eagle is becoming a fairly common, permanent resident of Minnesota around large lakes and rivers where it feeds primarily on fish (Coffin and Pfanmuller, 1988). Populations have risen steadily since the late 1970s as a result of the banning of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT). Recently eagle populations have increased to the extent that Minnesota is proposing to downgrade their status from threatened to special concern.

4.1.2 MNGP Populations

Eagles have not been sighted within the inner plant security fenced area, but they have been sighted along the Mississippi River in the vicinity of MNGP. A pair of bald eagles has nested, for the past three years, on the small island across from the MGNP intake structure. They have successfully fledged young at least two of those years.

4.1.3 Consequences of Proposed Actions

NSP has no plans that will impact currently undisturbed property located between the outer MNGP property fence and the inner plant security fence. Any plant activities resulting from Power Rerate will be contained within the inner plant security fence which has been previously disturbed and is overlain by gravel or pavement. Therefore, loss or disturbance of bald eagle habitat due to Power Rerate activities is not expected. The proposed action will not affect diurnal perches, roosting sites, or other habitat of importance to bald eagles; therefore, the proposed action will not affect the bald eagle.

4.2 PEREGRINE FALCON - (*Falco peregrinus*)

4.2.1 Life History

The peregrine falcon is classified as both State and Federally endangered in Minnesota, although it is found worldwide and may be the most widely occurring land bird (Coffin and Pfanmuller, 1988). This species once numbered 30 to 40 pairs in Minnesota and nested on bluffs along the Mississippi River south of Red Wing, along the St. Croix River, on cliffs along the North Shore, and in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (Coffin and Pfanmuller, 1988). The species was extirpated from Minnesota between 1946 and 1962 by pesticide poisoning, primarily DDT, resulting in egg shells so thin that the weight of the incubating female could not be supported. Populations have risen steadily in the United States since the late 1970s as a result of the banning of DDT. Peregrine populations have become established well enough that their status is being reviewed at the both the state and federal levels for possible downgrading from endangered to threatened.

A substantial reintroduction effort began in Minnesota in 1982. During the project's first 5 years, 90 birds were successfully released. Beginning in 1986, breeding pairs of falcons were seen defending nest sites along the Mississippi River (Coffin and Pfannmuller, 1988).

4.2.2 MNGP Populations

In 1991, a nest box for peregrine falcons was installed on the Sherco III stack. A pair of falcons took up residence in 1992. They have returned annually and fledged young each year for a total of twelve young. A nest box was installed in 1992 on the Monticello off-gas stack. A female falcon was present for a time in both 1993 and 1994 but she was unable to attract a mate. The same female returned in 1995, found a mate, and successfully fledged three young.

4.2.3 Consequences of Proposed Actions

NSP has no plans that will impact currently undisturbed property located between the outer MNGP property fence and the inner plant security fence. Any plant activities resulting from Power Rerate will be contained within the inner plant security fence, which has been previously disturbed and is overlain by gravel or pavement. Therefore, loss or disturbance of peregrine falcon habitat due to Power Rerate activities is not expected, and the proposed action will not affect the peregrine falcon.

5.0 STATE LISTED SPECIES

5.1 LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE - (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

5.1.1 Life History

The loggerhead shrike is listed as a Federal Category 2 species in Minnesota. MDNR lists it as threatened. The loggerhead shrike is rare in Minnesota, occurring as a summer resident primarily in the western and east-central portions of the State. A drastic population decline throughout the shrike's range has occurred during the past 10 to 15 years. It has been on the National Audubon Society's Blue List since 1972, with all regions in the United States reporting fewer numbers in recent years. This species is primarily an inhabitant of the open country and dry upland prairie where hedgerows, shrubs, and small trees occur. It is also found around shelter belts, old orchards, pastures, cemeteries, and farmsteads where this type of habitat is present (Coffin and Pfannmuller, 1988). Intensive farming practices have destroyed shelterbelts or hedgerows that provide preferred nesting sites. Moreover, because the loggerhead shrike is a predator, environmental contamination might also have contributed to its decline. A loggerhead shrike can often be detected without observing the bird itself. Its unique behavior of impaling unused prey (e.g., frogs, mice, and large invertebrates) on thorns and barbed wire is a telltale sign of the bird's presence in an area (Coffin and Pfannmuller, 1988).

5.1.2 MNGP Populations

The area of MNGP property located outside the inner plant security fence contains suitable habitat for the loggerhead shrike, and loggerhead shrikes have been sighted within a half-mile radius of MNGP. In 1995 the only known loggerhead shrike nest in Central Minnesota was located on Sheroc plant property, about 4 miles northwest on MNGP. (personal communication with D. J. Orr, Senior Biologist, Northern States Power Company, January 9, 1992).

5.1.3 Consequences of Proposed Actions

NSP has no plans that will impact currently undisturbed property located between the outer MNGP property fence and the inner plant security fence. Any plant activities resulting from Power Rerate will be contained within the inner plant security fence, which has been previously disturbed and is overlain by gravel or pavement. Therefore, loss or disturbance of loggerhead shrike habitat due to Power Rerate is not expected, and the proposed action will not affect the loggerhead shrike.

5.2 BLANDING'S TURTLE - (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

5.2.1 Life History

The Blanding's turtle is listed as a Federal Category 2 species in Minnesota. MDNR lists it as threatened. The population of Blanding's turtle has declined primarily from the destruction of habitat by drainage or inundation for agricultural purposes (Coffin and Pfannmuller, 1988). Like other turtles, the Blanding's turtle is vulnerable to collection as a desirable pet species. The preferred habitat includes calm shallow water, rich aquatic vegetation, and sandy uplands for nesting. Minnesota lies on the northwest periphery of the species range (Coffin and Pfannmuller, 1988).

5.2.2 MNGP Populations

The MNGP property located outside the inner plant security fence may provide habitat for Blanding's turtle in the wetlands along the Mississippi River. While Blanding's turtle may nest on the undisturbed portion of the property outside the inner plant security fence, none have been sighted (personal communication with D. J. Orr, Senior Biologist, Northern States Power Company, January 9, 1992).

5.2.3 Consequences of Proposed Actions

NSP has no plans that will impact currently undisturbed property located between the outer MNGP property fence and the inner plant security fence. Any plant activities resulting from Power Rerate will be contained within the inner plant security fence, which has been previously disturbed and is overlain by gravel or pavement. Therefore, loss or disturbance of Blanding's turtle habitat due to Power Rerate activities not expected, and the proposed action will not impact the Blanding's turtle.

5.3 TRUMPETER SWAN - (*Cygnus buccinator*)

5.3.1 Life History

The trumpeter swan is not a Federally listed species in Minnesota and MDNR lists it as extirpated; however, restoration is currently under way in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. On their proposed revision to the states endangered/threatened species list, that is currently under review, MDNR is proposing to list trumpeter swans as threatened in the state.

The trumpeter swan was formerly found in Minnesota but by the late 1800s was eliminated by market hunting for meat, feathers, and skin. Reintroduction efforts began in 1969 with the establishment of a captive flock at the Park Preserve District, Hennepin County. By 1990, over 150 swans had been released in Minnesota and were again breeding outside the preserve (MDNR, undated).

5.3.2 MNGP Populations

Trumpeter swans currently use the portion of the Mississippi River downstream of MNGP as a wintering area. The warm water discharge from MNGP prevents ice from forming and the birds are attracted to the open water and several substantial feeding stations, maintained by area residents, for the swans and other water fowl.

5.3.3 Consequences of Proposed Actions

NSP has no plans that will impact currently undisturbed property located between the outer MNGP property fence and the inner plant security fence. Any plant activities resulting from Power Rerate will be contained within the inner plant security fence, which has been previously disturbed and is overlain by gravel or pavement. Therefore, loss or disturbance of trumpeter swan habitat due to Power Rerate activities is not expected. However, any alteration in the operation of MNGP that would significantly reduce the amount of open water available to the birds during the late fall and winter months could have an adverse effect (Kittelson, 1991). Possible scenarios are related to the timing of the swans' use of the area in relation to late fall/winter plant outages. If no open water areas are available in the fall when swans normally migrate, the birds will likely continue their southward migration in search of open water. However, if the birds remain in the plant vicinity until late fall/winter due to open water areas provided by plant operations and then are confronted with a power outage that allows the river to freeze, the birds may be impacted, assuming they are reluctant to leave, due to loss of resources.

6.0 SUMMARY OF SPECIES FOUND ON THE MNGP SITE

The following species requested for inclusion in this biological assessment by the FWS and MDNR have been reported within 5 miles of the MNGP site:

- Bald eagle
- Peregrine falcon
- Loggerhead shrike

Trumpeter swan

7.0 ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS TO MINIMIZE OR ELIMINATE IMPACTS TO THE SPECIES

NSP has no plans that will impact currently undisturbed property located between the outer MNGP property fence and the inner plant security fence. Any plant activities resulting from Power Rerate will be contained within the inner plant security fence which has been previously disturbed and is overlain by gravel or pavement. Therefore, loss or disturbance of habitat that could be used by the above listed species due to Power Rerate activities is not expected. Power outages of up to 4 weeks are anticipated. Should these outages occur during the late fall and winter, the trumpeter swans that winter in the Mississippi River downstream of MNGP could be adversely affected by the freezing of open water areas previously kept open by the warm water released from the plant. Therefore, the proposed action could adversely impact this species.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Outages occurring during the late fall and winter could adversely impact the trumpeter swans that winter in the Mississippi River downstream of MNGP by allowing portions of the river previously kept open by the warm water released from the plant to freeze. Therefore, the proposed action could adversely impact this species. No other species will be adversely impacted by the license amendment of MNGP.

9.0 REFERENCES

- Coffin, B. and L. Pfannmuller (eds.), 1988. Minnesota's Endangered Flora and Fauna. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Eiden, D. J., 1991. Letter to C. Johnson (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Administrator, Regulatory Liaison, Northern States Power Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Eliason, B., 1991. Letter to D. J. Eiden (Northern States Power Company), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Endangered Resource/Environmental Review Specialist, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Kittelson, S., 1991. Letter to D. J. Orr (Northern States Power Company), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Wildlife Specialist, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Lewis, L. M., 1991. Letter to D. J. Eiden (Northern States Power Company), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Field Supervisor, Bloomington, Minnesota.
- MDNR (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources), undated. "The Trumpeter Swan is a Rare Species." Pamphlet prepared by MDNR.

NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission), 1991. Guidance for the Preparation of Supplemental Environmental Reports in Support of an Application to Renew a Nuclear Power Station Operating License: Draft for Comment. NUREG-0099/Draft Regulatory Guide DG-4002, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

NSP (Northern States Power Company), 1990. Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Updated Safety Analysis Report, Revision 10, Unit 1, Docket No. 50-263, License No. DPR-22.



Ex 3
Attachment A



Northern States Power Company

13999 Industrial Boulevard
Becker MN 55308
Telephone (612) 261-3155

January 8, 1996

Division of Endangered Species
North Central Regional Office
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Federal Building
Fort Snelling
St. Paul, Minnesota 55111

Subject: Threatened and Endangered Species Information

Northern States Power Company is preparing an Environmental Report Supplement as part of a request for a proposed amendment of its current operating license for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The amendment is seeking to increase plant output by 6 to 12 % through design changes, technological advancements, and greater efficiency. The changes will result in a slight increase in circulating water temperature of about a 1.7 degrees F at the outlet to the discharge canal. The project has been reviewed under the NPDES Program and it was determined that the plant will continue to operate in compliance with its existing permit limits. The Environmental Report Supplement will examine potential impacts associated with the proposed amendment of the Monticello plant license.

All work associated with this project will occur within the inner plant security fence (see small map). This area consists of concrete, pavement, and gravel in an area that has been thoroughly disturbed in the past and contains minimal wildlife habitat. No disturbance of terrestrial habitat surrounding the plant is expected.

In accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations and the provisions of the Endangered Species Act, we are requesting information from your office on the presence of endangered or threatened species which may be found within a five mile radius of the plant. We are also requesting locations of any significant natural features known to be within the survey area. The plant is located on the Mississippi River so information on aquatic species would be helpful

The Monticello Plant is located in Wright County in the NW quarter of Section 33, T122N R25W. A map detailing the boundaries of the survey area is attached.

If you have any questions concerning this request for information on listed species,
please call me at (612) 261-3155

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Orr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and last name "Orr" clearly distinguishable.

Dan Orr
Environmental Scientist III

attachments

c: Ron Jacobson
Lee Eberley



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4007

Ex 3
Attachment B

January 26, 1996

Dan Orr
Environmental Scientist
NSP
13999 Industrial Boulevard
Becker, MN 55308

Re: Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, T122N, R25W, Section 33, Wright County

Dear Mr. Orr:

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate five-mile radius of the above referenced project. A print-out with the results of this search in both full record and indexed format is enclosed. An explanation of the format of the print-out is attached.

From the enclosed print-out, you can see that there are 25 rare features within a five-mile radius of the plant. However, only the last 2 records listed on the index are within the immediate vicinity. Although trumpeter swans are not listed on our print-out, the immediate vicinity of your plant is a significant wintering area where approximately 170 swans were located in January, 1996. They are being proposed for state threatened species designation at this time. For your information, I am enclosing fact sheets on bald eagles, Blanding's turtles and trumpeter swans.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage Program and the Nongame Wildlife Program, units within the Section of Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources. It is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features, and is used in fostering better understanding and protection of these rare features. The information in the database is drawn from many parts of Minnesota, and is constantly being updated, but it is not based on a comprehensive survey of the state. Therefore, there are currently many significant natural features present in the state which are not represented by the database. We are in the process of addressing this via the Minnesota County Biological Survey, a county-by-county inventory of rare natural features, which is now underway. However, Wright County has not yet been surveyed. Because there has not been an on-site survey of the biological resources of the project area, it is possible that ecologically significant features exist for which we have no record.

DNR Information: 612-296-6157, 1-800-766-6000 • TTY: 612-296-5484, 1-800-657-3929

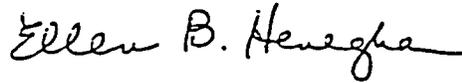
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Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in minimizing impacts on Minnesota's rare resources. Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on rare natural features. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. An invoice for the work completed is enclosed. You are being billed for map and computer search and staff scientist review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ellen B. Heneghan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Ellen B. Heneghan
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator
Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program
612/296-8279, FAX 612/297-4961

nhp #960249



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Twin Cities Field Office
4101 East 80th Street
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665



IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/AFWE-TCFO

JAN 26 1996

Mr. Dan Orr
Northern States Power Company
13999 Industrial Boulevard
Becker, MN 55308

Ex 3
Attachment C

Dear Mr. Orr:

This letter responds to your January 8, 1996, request for information on endangered or threatened species as part of a request for a proposed amendment to the current operating license for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The nuclear power plant is located in the NW1/4 of Section 33, T122N, R25W in Wright County.

The bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), a federally threatened species is known to breed and winter in Sherburne County. Because of the location and type of activity proposed, this project is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. This precludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. However, if the project is modified or new information becomes available which indicates that listed species may be affected, consultation with this office should be reinitiated.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of and in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act and the Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy. This proposal was also examined for its conformance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended and Executive Orders 11988 and 11990.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Lewis

Lynn M. Lewis
Field Office Supervisor

From Dan Orr

To Files

Date February 5, 1996

Location Sherco Env. Lab

Location ERAD

Ex 3
Attachment D

Subject USFWS Endangered/Threatened Species Review

I contacted the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Twin Cities Field Office (TCFO) regarding the letter we received on endangered species at Monticello. I talked to Nick Rowse who had drafted the letter for Lynn Lewis the Field Office Supervisor. The letter referenced bald eagles as a federally threatened species but did not mention the peregrine falcons, federally listed as endangered, that are in the vicinity of the plant. Their office was unaware of the presence of peregrine falcons at the facility the past few years.

I described the location of the nest, the normal activity in the area, and the fact that most of the activity generated by the project would be inside the buildings. The main external impact would be the slight increase in discharge temperature. Nick felt that there would still be no impact from the project on the endangered/threatened species in the area.

attachments: 1

c: Ron Jacobson
Lee Eberley
Jim Bodensteiner