

August 18, 2005

Mr. John T. Conway
Site Vice President
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION (TAC NO. MC6440)

Dear Mr. Conway:

By letter dated March 16, 2005, Nuclear Management Company, LLC, (NMC or the applicant) submitted an application pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54) to renew the operating license for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP) for review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC staff is reviewing the information contained in the license renewal application (LRA) and has identified, in the enclosure, areas where additional information is needed to complete the review.

These questions were discussed with your staff, Mr. Joe Pairitz, and a mutually agreeable date for this response is within 30 days from the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-3777 or by e-mail at DXM2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel J. Merzke, Project Manager
License Renewal Section A
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-263

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant

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DISTRIBUTION: Letter to J. Conway, Re: RAI for review of Monticello LRA, Dated: August 18, 2005

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**MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (LRA)
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI)**

RAI B2.1.2-1

In lieu of the ASME Section XI examination requirements described in the GALL Report for the Reactor Vessel Stabilizer Bracket attachment welds (Examination Category B-K for welded attachments for vessels, piping pumps and valves), MNGP's current relief request allows visual examination of the accessible areas of those welds to provide adequate aging management during the extended period of operation. The NRC staff considers this an exception to the GALL Report for the ASME Section XI In-Service Inspection, Subsection IWB, IWC, and IWD Program. MNGP completed a VT-3 examination of the accessible areas of those welds during the 2005 refueling outage with no reportable indications recorded.

To support the NRC staff evaluation, the applicant is requested to describe details of the type of weld that is used for this attachment. Describe applicable examination requirements at the time of vessel manufacture (when the attachments were welded to the vessel) and, if readily available, provide applicable examination results. Describe inspections or examinations, if any, of the welds that have been performed since initial start-up of the plant, including the inspection or examination methodology and available results. Describe stressors (or absence thereof) that are experienced by the welds (e.g. mechanical or thermal forces, fatigue) during normal operation, and state, based on MNGP's operating history, whether the welds have experienced stressors different from the normal operating stressors. Provide a summary of industry operating experience, to the extent known by the applicant, that is related to failures or indicated defects in similar welds or to successful examination of similar welds. Provide any other additional information that MNGP considers appropriate for the NRC staff to consider in its evaluation of this proposed exception to the GALL Report's description for the ASME Section XI ISI, Subsection IWB, IWC, and IWD AMP.

Enclosure