



November 30, 2005

L-HU-05-023  
10 CFR 50.48

ATTN: Document Control Desk  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant  
Docket 50-263  
License No. DPR-22

Duane Arnold Energy Center  
Dockets 50-331 and 72-32  
License No. DPR-49

Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2  
Dockets 50-266, 50-301 and 72-5  
License Nos. DPR-24 and DPR-27

Palisades Nuclear Plant  
Dockets 50-255 and 72-7  
License No. DPR-20

Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2  
Dockets 50-282, 50-306 and 72-10  
License Nos. DPR-42 and DPR-60

Letter of Intent to Transition to 10 CFR 50.48(c) – National Fire Protection Association Standard NFPA 805. “Performance-based Standards for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants, 2001 Edition

This letter serves to inform you of our intent to adopt NFPA 805 (Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Generating Plants, 2001 Edition) in accordance with 10 CFR 50.48(c) for the following stations:

- Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2
- Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
- Palisades Nuclear Power Plant
- Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2
- Duane Arnold Energy Center

The transition to the performance-based standard for fire protection is being implemented as a fleet project and begins for all plants with this letter of intent. This transition will be completed in two phases, an initial design phase, followed by a staggered implementation phase. This transition method has been selected due to the industry identified uncertainties related to the following issues:

- Uncertainty in the availability of resources and methodology to perform the fire probabilistic risk analysis required for the transition.

- Potential need for modifications to comply with Chapter 3 of NFPA 805-2001.
- Uncertainty in the resources and methods which will be required to evaluate operator recovery actions associated with the transition.

The initial design phase of the transition will monitor the NFPA 805 pilot plants, and perform technical and regulatory assessments to determine the feasibility and practicality of performing the transition. In addition, during this time period, outstanding issues related to compliance with the current Appendix R, Section III.G requirements will be evaluated for risk significance. If these modifications are determined to be non-risk-significant, these modifications may be deferred pending completion of the performance based evaluations during the implementation phase.

Pending the results of the initial design phase, NMC intends to transition the stations on a staggered basis, with PBNP being the first to begin the implementation process in the third quarter of 2007. MNGP should be the next to transition to NFPA 805, followed by PNPP, PINGP, and DAEC. This schedule is proposed due to the extensive resource requirements identified by the pilot transition projects. The initial implementation schedule is as follows:

- Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 – Implementation phase start 7/2/2007; complete 7/2/2010.
- Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant – Implementation phase start 1/1/2010; complete 12/30/2012.
- Palisades Nuclear Power Plant – Implementation phase start 1/3/2012; complete 7/3/2013.
- Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant Units 1 and 2 – Implementation phase start 7/4/2013; complete 7/1/2016.
- Duane Arnold Energy Center – Implementation schedule to be established following completion of pending plant license transfer.

The implementation phase for each station will consist of the following:

- Completion of Fire PRA
- Nuclear Safety Performance Criteria Transition review
- Non-Power Operational Mode Transition review
- Radiological Release Transition review
- Change Evaluations
- License Amendment Request
- Program Documentation
- Configuration Control Process Development
- Monitoring Process Development

The transition will be considered complete upon receipt of the License Amendment authorizing the transition to NFPA 805.

This proposed schedule is subject to change based on the progress and results of the pilot plant transitions. In addition, as each plant determines what physical modifications or changes to the fire protection program will be required to comply with NFPA 805, further schedule changes may be required. These changes may include changes in the station implementation sequence. An updated schedule will accompany the LAR that each plant will submit as required by 10 CFR 50.48(c)(3)(i).

The NRC interim Enforcement Policy (69 FR 33684, June 16, 2004) provides guidelines for enforcement discretion for identified non-compliances. Those non-compliances must be entered into the licensee's Corrective Action Program, must not be associated with findings that the Reactor Oversight Process Significance Determination Process (SDP) would evaluate as Red, or would not be categorized at Severity Level I, and appropriate compensatory measures have been taken (non-safety significant). As outlined in the Enforcement Policy, enforcement discretion begins with the licensee's letter of intent.

This letter contains no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.



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cc: Regional Administrator, USNRC, Region III  
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