



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

October 1, 2009

Mr. Timothy J. O'Connor  
Site Vice President  
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant  
Northern States Power Company - Minnesota (NSPM)  
2807 West County Road 75  
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT – REVISED SCHEDULE FOR  
REVIEW OF EXTENDED POWER UPRATE AMENDMENT APPLICATION  
(TAC NO. MD9990)

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

This letter is to inform you of the decision of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to delay the review of the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP) extended power uprate (EPU) application dated November 5, 2008. As you are aware, in a staff requirements memorandum dated January 8, 2009, the Commission directed the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff to continue to work towards resolving Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) concerns regarding the application of containment accident pressure (CAP) credit.

On March 18, 2009, the ACRS issued a letter providing recommendations to facilitate resolution of its CAP concerns. In response, the NRC staff wrote to the ACRS on June 4, 2009, stating that “[w]hile the staff carefully weighs the ACRS recommendations, we may consider delaying issuance of licensing actions currently under review related to changes in the use of containment accident pressure.” The NRR staff has reviewed all the proposed options and the ACRS’ recommendations. As was discussed with your staff on September 15, 2009, the NRC staff has determined that additional time is warranted to develop additional review criteria to ensure the technical adequacy of the MNGP EPU application. The development of this review criteria is essential to provide the technical and regulatory consistency, as well as the schedule certainty needed to complete this review.

Therefore, the NRC staff will focus on closing out the other outstanding technical issues associated with the MNGP EPU amendment application. When appropriate review criteria have been completed, the NRC staff will discuss with your staff the remaining information needed to support completion of the EPU review.

T. O'Connor

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As indicated during the conference call, it is expected that the review criteria will be available in the spring of 2010.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Monticello Project Manager, Mr. Peter Tam at (301) 415-1451.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Leeds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

cc: Listserv

T. O'Connor

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As indicated during the conference call, it is expected that the review criteria will be available in the spring of 2010.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Monticello Project Manager, Mr. Peter Tam at (301) 415-1451.

Sincerely,

*/RA by J Wiggins for/*

Eric J. Leeds, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

cc: Listserv

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