



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III  
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210  
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

February 19, 2010

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

**SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS:  
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT**

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

In a letter dated August 18, 2009 (L-XE-09-010), Xcel Energy requested the NRC schedule initial operator license examinations in December 2010 and in January 2013 at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. We have scheduled the examination requested to be conducted during the weeks of December 5 and December 12, 2010, and during the weeks of January 13 and January 20, 2013. On-site validation of each of these examinations will occur approximately three weeks before the start of the examination. In the unlikely event that we are unable to support the examination during the scheduled weeks, we will inform you immediately upon discovery of such conditions and make arrangements to administer the examination at a mutually acceptable date.

We understand that your staff will develop the examination unless we determine it is necessary for the NRC to write the examination. The letter indicated each examination has more than nine applicants taking the examinations. Please inform us if the number of candidates for an examination declines below ten as this will impact the examination schedule. Please inform us at your earliest opportunity if you discover you need to change the scheduled dates for the examinations.

A supplementary letter will be sent to the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant's Training Department approximately 120 days prior to the initial examination informing the training manager of the chief examiner's name. The letter will also outline examination security expectations, list the materials required by the NRC to conduct the examination, reconfirm the examination dates, and reconfirm the number of candidates you have in the training program. If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Mr. Dell McNeil of my staff at 630-829-9737.

T. O'Connor

-2-

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Hironori Peterson, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-263  
License No. DPR-22

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T. O'Connor

-2-

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Hironori Peterson, Chief  
Operations Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

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