

Central File



NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

November 16, 1978

Mr. James G. Keppler
Director - Region III
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Keppler:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22

Our February 14, 1978, letter to your office in response to IE Bulletin 78-01 stated that we expected to complete replacement of existing CR 120A contact arm retainers by the end of the 1978 fall refueling outage. The scope and extent of review necessary to assure the safety and operational adequacy of the associated installation and test procedures is greater than anticipated. Therefore, completion has been delayed. It is expected that replacement will be completed by January 31, 1979, if plant conditions permit (some retainers may have to be replaced during a plant outage).

Our August 10, 1978, letter to your office in response to IE Bulletin 78-10 stated that replacement snubber springs would be installed during the 1978 fall refueling outage. The recommended replacement springs were obtained from the Bergen Paterson Pipe Support Corporation and were installed in several of the subject snubbers. During testing of the snubbers following spring replacement, problems were experienced with proper positioning of the accumulator piston. Investigation revealed that the new springs have a spring constant of approximately one-tenth that of the original springs. The original springs for 12 of the subject snubbers were examined and found to be in good condition. The original springs were installed in snubbers which were not replaced with spares. A decision will be made concerning spring replacement following resolution of the problem with the vendor.

Both of the above items were discussed with our NRC Region III Inspector on November 13, 1978.

Yours very truly,

L. J. Wachter
Vice President - Power Production
and System Operation

cc: Mr. G. Charnoff
NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

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