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ACCESSION NBR:7905040604 DOC.DATE: 79/04/27 NOTARIZED: NO DOCKET #
 FACIL:50-263 MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, NORTHERN STATES 05000263
 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 ELIASON,L.R. NORTHERN STATES POWER CO.
 RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 KEPPLER,J.G. REGION 3, CHICAGO, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL DIESEL GENERATOR TURBOCHARGER PROBLEM W/REPEATED
 HOT STARTS IS BEING AVOIDED;NECESSARY MOD WILL BE AVAILABLE
 IN SIX MONTHS.

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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Monticello, MN 55362

April 27, 1979

Mr. J. G. Keppler, Director
Region III
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

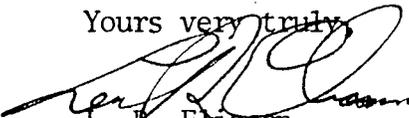
Dear Mr. Keppler:

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

Electro-Motive Division of General Motors Corporation has informed Northern States Power Company of a potential diesel generator turbocharger problem. E.M.D. informed N.S.P. that recent lubricating oil system tests conducted at E.M.D. indicate that certain repeat start operating modes could result in turbocharger thrust bearing damage which might ultimately cause a turbocharger failure. The potential problem occurs if the diesel engine receives a repeat rapid start within a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 3 hours after a shutdown from a previous run. When a fast start occurs within this time frame, sufficient "prime" oil will have drained to retard the buildup of engine oil pressure. In the worst case of a repeat rapid start, the engine may reach operating speed before oil pressure is established at the turbocharger thrust bearing. This may cause some smearing of the bearing metal so that cumulative damage from several similar starts would result in a turbocharger failure. This problem is potentially generic.

Appropriate administrative actions will be taken to avoid repeat fast hot starts within the time frame of concern. E.M.D is currently developing a modification to improve the lube oil system. It is planned that this modification will be installed after it is available which is expected to be in approximately six months.

Yours very truly,


L. R. Eliason
Plant Manager

LRE/sdd

cc: Director, Office of Management Information
and Program Control

File

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Copy sent by telecopier to J. G. Keppler.

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