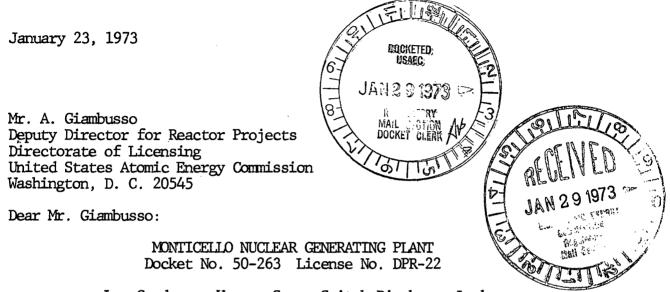
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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401



Low Condenser Vacuum Scram Switch Diaphragm Leak

A condition occurred at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant recently which we are reporting to your office in accordance with Section 6.6.C.1 of Appendix A, Technical Specifications, of Provisional Operating License DPR-22.

On Friday, January 12, 1973, while performing a routine surveillance test, one "Low Condenser Vacuum Scram" switch was found to have a small leak in the metal diaphragm capsule. The instrument was immediately replaced with a spare. The remaining three instruments and the spare installed were tested for leakage and were found acceptable.

The leak discovered did not change the instrument setpoint or cause the instrument to he inoperable. A large leak in this diaphragm would cause the instrument to trip and is therefore a "safe failure".

The cause of the leak has not been idantified; however, the leaking diaphragm capsule has been returned to the manufacturer for further analysis. All four of the condenser low vacuum scram instruments have been placed on an accelerated eight week surveillance test schedule.

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Yours very truly,

Regulatory

L. O. Mayer, P.E. Director of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/mmm

cc: B H Grier G Charnoff Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Attn: K. Dzugan