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**NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY**

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

May 29, 1979

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

Response to IE Bulletins 78-12, 78-12A, and 78-12B  
dated September 29, 1978, November 24, 1978, and March 19, 1979

IE Bulletin 78-12 described an event which occurred at another facility in which weld wire used in some reactor vessel welds was different than the weld wire called for in the design specifications. We were asked to supply, within 60 days, a variety of information concerning the weld material and procedures used in the fabrication of the Monticello vessel. IE Bulletins 78-12A and 78-12B subsequently modified the type of information to be provided and allowed more time to gather and submit it.

In compliance with the subject Bulletins, General Electric (GE) requested Chicago Bridge and Iron Company (CB&I) to conduct a records investigation of low alloy, high tensile weld deposits used in all reactor pressure vessels built in their, or their supplier's, facilities. The purpose of this investigation was to identify atypical weld deposit similar to the one described in Bulletin 78-12. In response to the GE request, CB&I has prepared a report and submitted it to the NRC on April 24, 1979. This report states that no deviations were found in the welding material used in the Monticello vessel.

GE has reviewed CB&I's report to the NRC and has not found any discrepancies. Consequently, GE concludes that it is very unlikely that atypical weld deposits exist in any reactor pressure vessel welds at Monticello.

*AOZ  
CB&I*

In their report, CB&I states that they have no Monticello archive material which can be used for verification purposes (IE Bulletin 78-12, item 4). We have investigated the availability of on-site archive material. Seven weld metal specimens (two Charpy impact and five tensile) are available. They were

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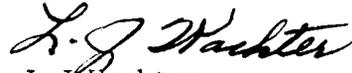
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originally fabricated as standby test specimens for the reactor vessel mechanical property surveillance program. General Electric is currently investigating for us how representative these test specimens are of actual vessel welds. The results of this investigation will be reported within a few weeks to the Commission as requested in a letter dated February 16, 1978 from D K Davis, Acting Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #2, Division of Operating Reactors, USNRC.

Please contact us if you require additional information concerning our response.

Very truly yours,



L J Wachter

Vice President - Power Production  
and System Operation

cc: Mr G Charnoff  
NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
Washington, DC