

NOV 16 1977

Docket No. 50-263

Northern States Power Company  
 ATTN: Mr. Leo Wachter  
 Vice President  
 Power Production and  
 System Operation  
 414 Nicollet Mall  
 Minneapolis, MN 55401

Gentlemen:

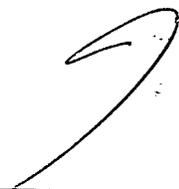
Thank you for your letter dated November 8, 1977, informing us of the steps you have taken to correct the noncompliance identified in our letter dated October 14, 1977. We will examine your corrective action during a future inspection.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gaston Fiorelli, Chief  
 Reactor Operations and  
 Nuclear Support Branch

cc w/ltr dtd 11/8/77:  
 Mr. L. R. Eliason,  
 Plant Manager  
 Central Files  
 Reproduction Unit NRC 20b  
 PDR  
 Local PDR  
 NSIC  
 TIC  
 Anthony Roisman, Esq.,  
 Attorney



OFFICE >	RIII <i>MCC</i>	RIII <i>RPD</i>	RIII	RIII		
SURNAME >	Choules/ls	Warnick	Harster	Fiorelli		
DATE >	11/14/77	11/14/77		<i>G</i>		



NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

November 8, 1977

Mr. Gaston Fiorelli, Chief  
Reactor Operations and Nuclear Support Branch  
Region III  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Fiorelli:

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

Your letter of October 14, 1977, identified an item which appeared to be in noncompliance with NRC requirements and requested that we reply within 20 days of receipt of letter. The noncompliance, as stated, was:

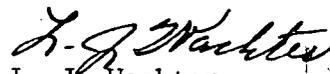
Contrary to Technical Specifications 6.5 and 6.5.C.3 and Section IV.A of your procedure, NSP-PT-1, liquid penetrant testing was performed on control rod drive collets between September 14 and 22, 1977, by a noncertified technician.

When the Control Rod Drive (CRD) collets were inspected, the only NSP approved liquid penetrant inspection procedures available were NSP-VS-1 and NSP-NPT-1. These procedures were prepared and approved for use during the 1975 and 1977 refueling outages, respectively, for inspection of ASME Code-related pressure boundary components. The ASME Code applicable to in-service inspection requires NDE to be performed by certified personnel and the procedure included this requirement. However, the CRD collets are not pressure boundary or code-related components. Although the technician was not certified in accordance with SNT-TC-1A, his qualifications were more than sufficient to assure quality in the performance of the collet liquid penetrant examination.

This infraction has been discussed with the quality engineers and other personnel responsible for processing work control documents. The importance of using appropriate procedures and assuring that personnel qualifications are in accordance with procedure requirements was emphasized. We believe that this action is sufficient to prevent a recurrence.

Should you have any questions concerning our response, please communicate directly with the plant management.

Yours very truly,

  
L. J. Wachter NOV 10 1977

Vice President - Power Production  
and System Operation

cc: Mr. Victor Stello  
Mr. G. Charnoff  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency