



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

APR 06 1978

Docket No. 50-263/78-4

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

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Messrs. B. L. Jorgensen and A. G. Januska of this office on March 14-16, 1978, of activities at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant authorized by NRC Provisional Operating License No. DPR-22 and to the discussion of our findings with Messrs. Mayer and Ward of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

The enclosed copy of our inspection report identifies areas examined during the inspection. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel.

No items of noncompliance with NRC requirements were identified during the course of this inspection.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room, except as follows. If this report contains information that you or your contractors believe to be proprietary, you must apply in writing to this office, within twenty days of your receipt of this letter, to withhold such information from public disclosure. The application must include a full statement of the reasons for which the information is considered proprietary, and should be prepared so that proprietary information identified in the application is contained in an enclosure to the application.

Northern States Power
Company

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APR 06 1978

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

W. L. Fisher, Acting Chief
Fuel Facility and Materials
Safety Branch

Enclosure: IE Inspection
Report No. 50-263/78-04

cc w/encl:

Mr. L. R. Eliason, Plant
Manager

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OFFICE	RIII (B)	RIII (ah)	RIII	RIII WLF	RIII
SURNAME	Jorgensen/bk	Januska	Essig	Fisher	Harpster
DATE	4/5/78				

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

Report No. 50-263/78-04

Docket No. 50-263

License No. DPR-22

Licensee: Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401

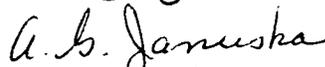
Facility name: Monticello Nuclear Generating Station

Inspection at: Monticello Site and Minneapolis Corporate Offices

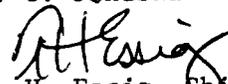
Inspection conducted: March 14-16, 1978

Inspectors: 
B. L. Jorgensen

4-5-78


A. G. Januska

4/5/78

Approved by: 
T. H. Essig, Chief
Environmental and Special
Projects Section

4/5/78

Inspection Summary

Inspection on March 14-16, 1978 (Report No. 50-263/78-04)

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced inspection of environmental protection including licensee internal audits; management control programs; control of quality in analytical measurements; and implementation of radiological and nonradiological environmental monitoring programs. The inspection involved 30 inspector-hours by two NRC inspectors.

Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified in any of the five areas inspected.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

*Mr. L. O. Mayer, Manager, Nuclear Support Services (NSS)
*Mr. E. L. Ward, Manager, Nuclear Environmental Services, NSS
Mr. B. W. Clark, Administrator, Radiation Environmental
Monitoring, NSS
Mr. G. Heberling, Supervisor, Ecological Studies (Monti-Sherco)
Environmental - Governmental Activities Department (EGAD)
Mr. D. Johnson, Environmental Aide, EGAD
Mr. J. Weinhold, Field Biologist, EGAD
Mr. F. Fey, Radiation Protection Supervisor, Monticello Plant
Mr. R. Jacobsen, Plant Chemist, Monticello Plant

*denotes those present at the exit interview.

2. Licensee Internal Audits

The inspectors reviewed documentation concerning an audit of the contractor performing radiological environmental monitoring, which was conducted jointly by a technical member from the licensee's Nuclear Support Services Department and a quality assurance member from the Quality Assurance Department. This audit, conducted in June, 1977, covered the quality assurance program being implemented by the environmental contractor in comparison to the criteria of 10 CFR 50, Appendix B. The quality assurance program was developed pursuant to contract agreements, and had as its basis the applicable portions of Appendix B.

The licensee audit identified a number of minor inconsistencies for which the inspectors reviewed licensee followup action. The licensee had subdivided audit findings by significance, and directed the contractor to take corrective action and report in writing for three items. Corrective action had been completed, and identified deficiencies resolved, at the time of this inspection. None of the deficiencies identified involved compliance matters.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

3. Management Control

The inspectors reviewed licensee assignments of responsibility and authority for program management, review, and audit of the radiological and nonradiological environmental monitoring

programs. These assignments, previously delegated by internal memoranda, are now formalized in licensee Administrative Control Directives (ACD's) in accordance with the licensee's current quality assurance documentation policies.

The Environmental - Governmental Activities Department (EGAD) is assigned responsibility for sample collection, pretreatment and shipping for radiological environmental samples. EGAD also operates, maintains and calibrates air sampling stations for this program.

For the nonradiological environmental monitoring program, the licensee does not have technical specifications but conducts a voluntary study. Development and conduct of this study, including collection, analysis and evaluation, and preparation of study reports, are responsibilities assigned to EGAD.

Responsibility for operation and maintenance of meteorological field data collection equipment has been transferred from EGAD to the Monticello plant staff.

The Nuclear Support Services (NSS) Department is responsible under the current ACD's for development and maintenance of the radiological environmental monitoring program, including management of the contract for radiological sample analysis. Responsibilities for report preparation and submittal, and for conduct of an independent audit program are also assigned to NSS.

Computer reduction and processing of meteorological data and development of dose pathway models are NSS responsibilities relating to the meteorological monitoring program.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

4. Analytical Quality Control

The inspectors examined licensee programs to assure quality in collection and analysis of samples for the radiological environmental monitoring program.

Detailed sampling procedures have been developed to assure collection of all samples and to control integrity and representativeness of the samples collected by EGAD personnel. Records establishing implementation of these procedures were reviewed, with no problems noted. In addition, a combination audit and training program is carried out through occasional NSS accompaniment of the EGAD staff on field sample collection.

Analytical quality control, as noted in Paragraph 2 above, is achieved through contractor implementation of his own quality control program. The contractor's quality assurance and quality control program manuals have been provided to and reviewed by the licensee, and have been approved for use in the contract program. The licensee is kept informed of revisions to either manual.

The contractor provides quality control program data to the licensee as part of the normal analytical data reporting process. These data are reviewed by NSS personnel along with data from the sampling program. At the time of this inspection, the licensee was soliciting information from the contractor concerning the comprehensiveness of the quality control data provided during calendar year 1977.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

5. Radiological Monitoring Program Implementation

The inspectors reviewed licensee implementation of the radiological environmental monitoring program for calendar year 1977. Both raw data reports and the final summary report were examined. No unusual results or trends ascribable to operation of the Monticello plant were observed in this review. The Radiation Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) did identify numerous samples showing deposition of radioactive debris from atmospheric nuclear weapons testing conducted by the People's Republic of China in late 1976 and again in September, 1977. The licensee has selected indicator nuclides for use in discriminating weapons fallout from plant effluent effects, and provides a referenced analysis and basis for each determination where quantifiable levels of radioactivity were observed in environmental media.

The data showed very few instances of missed analyses, and each of these was provided with a reasonable justification.

During this inspection, three REMP sample collection stations were visited. Each was found to be located as specified and to be in good working order. The licensee's program for collection station maintenance and calibration was discussed with licensee personnel. An excellent air sampling station operability record has been achieved.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

6. Nonradiological Monitoring Program Implementation

As previously noted, the licensee does not have Appendix B Technical Specifications covering detailed program conduct for the nonradiological environmental monitoring program. The voluntary program conducted by the licensee was reviewed during the inspection to maintain cognizance of program status. In addition, the licensee's formal program report for calendar year 1976 was reviewed and discussed with licensee personnel, as were modifications to the program carried out in 1977.

The nonradiological monitoring program has included the following specific studies: attached algae (periphyton); water quality; macroinvertebrates; fish creel surveys; electrofishing; and fish impingement. During 1977, the macroinvertebrate studies were terminated on the recommendation of the consultant performing the work. He concluded a sufficient data base had been established, such that additional expense was unlikely to garner information of value. Also in 1977, a fish seining survey was added to the ecological program. This continuing study is intended to qualify types of species present and to provide abundance indices by year class. The fish impingement program was a one-year intensive study performed by a contract consultant. This study was completed in May, 1977.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

7. Management Interview

A management interview (with licensee representatives as indicated in Paragraph 1) was conducted at the conclusion of the inspection on March 16, 1978. The inspectors summarized the scope and findings of the inspection, specifically noting that no problems had been identified. The licensee requested early coordination with NSS staff following the initiation of future unannounced environmental inspections.