

NSP

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

February 28, 1979

Mr. A. B. Davis, Chief
Fuel Facility and Materials
Safety Branch
Region III - United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Davis:

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

Your letter of February 7, 1979, identified an item which appeared to be in noncompliance with NRC requirements and requested that we reply within 20 days of receipt of your letter. The noncompliance, as stated, was --

Based on the inspection conducted on January 23-26, 1979, it appears that certain of your activities were in noncompliance with NRC requirements, as noted below. This item is an infraction.

Technical Specification 4.7.B.2.b requires that at least once per operating cycle, but not to exceed 18 months, the pressure drop across the combined filters of each SBT system circuit shall be measured and the operability of the inlet heater at nominal rated power shall be verified.

Contrary to the above, the pressure drop has not been measured and the heater operability has not been verified since April 7, 1977, a period greater than an operating cycle, and exceeding 18 months.

The required surveillance was completed upon discovery of this item. The inlet heater output and filter pressure drop for the SBT system units were found to be within the Technical Specification acceptance criteria. During the period discussed in the noncompliance, the SBT system operability test was conducted monthly. This test requires that proper flow rate, which is a function of filter pressure drop, be demonstrated although actual pressure drop readings are not taken. The monthly test also requires verification of air heater operability by observing the differential temperature across the heater; however, specific heater output readings are not taken.

7903260090

AR 02 1979

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Mr. A. B. Davis
February 28, 1979
Page 2

The SBT system filter drop and air heater output measurements, as well as other tests which have multiple frequency requirements, were previously classified for scheduling purposes as "special tests." A supervisor is assigned for each "special test" to maintain records and assure that it is performed when required. The supervisors responsible for the above two measurements were reminded of the importance of maintaining records and assuring that the tests are performed when required. In addition, all "special tests" which have a specific time limit are now scheduled to be completed on a specific date or interval. This will allow an additional follow-up review by the surveillance coordinator to assure proper completion. It is believed that the actions taken will prevent similar future occurrences.

Should you have any questions concerning our response, please communicate directly with the Plant Management.

Yours very truly,



L. J. Wachter
Vice President - Power Production
and System Operation

cc: Mr. G. Charnoff