

REGULATORY INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (RIDS)

AC: 50-263 MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT, NORTHERN STATES
 AUTH. NAME: MAYOR, L.O.
 RECIP. NAME: AUTHORITY AFFILIATION: NORTHERN STATES POWER CO.
 OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

DOCKET # 05000263

SUBJECT: RESPONDS TO IE INSP REPT 50-263/79-02 RE INFO ON HIGH DENSITY FUEL STORAGE SYS. UTIL WILL NOT USE EIGHT RESIZED FUEL STORAGE TUBES PRIOR TO SAFETY EVALUATION.

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MAY 29 1979

NSP

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

May 21, 1979

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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

High Density Fuel Storage System

Inspection Report 50-263/79-02 from I&E Region III included information on the Monticello High Density Fuel Storage System. It stated that 11 of the 676 fuel storage locations showed dimensional changes (i.e., swelling) after installation. It further stated that each boral tube was drilled at the top adjacent corners (i.e., to prevent further swelling) and the 11 tubes were reformed by vacuum and mechanical means.

The report did not specifically state that the six resized tubes, that would not accept the gauge, were gauged before reinstallation in the pool. The report goes on to state that as a result of gauging at 60 and 90 days after reinstallation, two more resized tubes would not accept the gauge. However, all eight tubes will accept the dummy fuel assembly. It is our opinion that these eight tubes have not exhibited further swelling, but that lack of gauge acceptance is due to inability to "shrink" the metal back to its original conformation by the resizing process.

The inspection report further states "These eight locations have been 'red' flagged and the licensee stated they would not be used unless absolutely necessary".

To further clarify our position on this matter, NSP will not use the eight resized fuel storage tubes unless a safety evaluation has been completed, the NRC has been notified of the proposed use of these tubes and afforded an opportunity for review.

L. O. Mayer

L O Mayer, PE
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/ak

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