

JUL 29 1975

Docket No: 50-263

Northern States Power Company
ATTN: Mr. L. O. Mayer, PE
Director of Nuclear Support
Services
414 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed the revised Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Operator Requalification Program submitted on June 17, 1975.

The operator requalification program, as revised, continues to meet the requirements of Paragraph 50.54(i-1) of 10 CFR Part 50 and Appendix A of 10 CFR Part 55, and is approved, provided that the last paragraph of section 2B of the revised program is deleted and the following added:

1. The licensed individual who prepares and grades the annual examination need not take the examination. This exclusion shall extend to only one individual.

On May 7, 1975, Mr. R. J. Campbell of this office and Mr. N. C. Choules, Office of Inspection and Enforcement visited the plant. The purpose of the visit was to audit the operator requalification program. Mr. Choules was concerned with the implementation of the program, while Mr. Campbell was concerned with the content of the annual examinations and lecture quizzes and the grading thereof. Mr. Choules findings are contained in IE Inspection Report No. 50-263/75-09, dated June 10, 1975.

Based on Mr. Campbell's report, we have determined that the following inadequacies exist in the administration and the content of the annual examinations.

1. The previous annual examination was administered in six separate sections with a review session on each section prior to that section being administered. This method is not considered a good test of the operators knowledge. The revised program states that future examinations will be administered in only two parts, which is satisfactory.

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2. The questions, and answers accepted, on the senior operator examination, for the most part, are those normally considered appropriate for an operator. Therefore, the senior operator examination was not a true test of senior operators knowledge to determine his ability to direct the licensed activities of licensed operators.
3. All questions were considered of equal value regardless of the degree of difficulty, the effort required to answer the questions or the importance of the subject matter. We understand that appropriate point values will be assigned to each question on future examinations.

The following inadequacies were found to exist regarding the grading of the annual examinations.

1. There were inconsistencies in the grading from one examination to another. This was probably due to several members of the Monticello staff grading the examinations.
2. There were no prepared answer sheets for use by the individuals who graded the examinations. This probably contributed to the inconsistency indicated above and also resulted in an excessive amount of credit being given for incomplete answers.

The audit of the lecture quizzes indicated appropriate questions and grading.

It is our understanding that the next annual examinations are scheduled for September 1975. In order to avoid a repetition of the inadequacies enumerated above, we request that you submit copies of the examinations and answer sheets for our review two weeks prior to the planned date of their administration. In addition, please inform us when the examinations have been graded.

It is our understanding that one staff member will grade all of the examinations in the future. This should eliminate the grading inadequacies.

Northern States Power Co.

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We are available to meet with you regarding this matter should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
P. F. COLLINS**

Paul F. Collins, Chief
Operator Licensing Branch
Division of Reactor Licensing

cc: Arthur Renquist, Esquire
Vice President -- Law
Northern States Power Co.
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Gerald Charnoff
Shaw, Pittman, Potts &
Trowbridge
910 - 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Howard J. Vogel, Esquire
Legal Counsel
2750 Dean Parkway
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

Steve Gadler
2120 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Mr. Daniel L. Ficker
Assistant City Attorney
638 City Hall
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Mr. Kenneth Dzigan
Environmental Planning
Consultant
St. Paul City Planning
421 Wabasha Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

cc: Sandra S. Gardebring
Special Assistant Attorney General
Counsel for Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency
1935 W. County Road B2
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

Anthony Z. Roisman, Esquire
Berlin, Roisman and Kessler
1712 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

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