

FROM: Northern States Power Company
 Minneapolis, Minn. 55401
 Wade Lockin

DATE OF DOCUMENT:

Nov. 5, 1971

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TO:

Dr. Peter A. Norris

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 Station activities....

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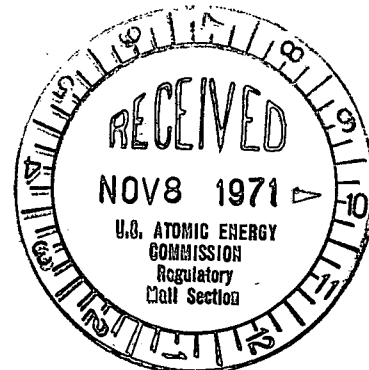
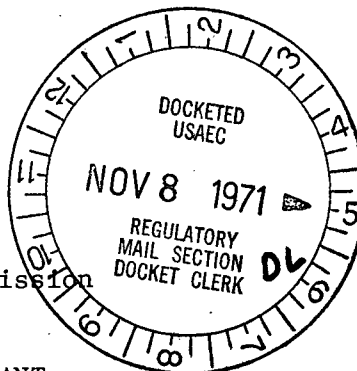
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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

November 5, 1971

Dr Peter A Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D C 20545



MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
DOCKET 50-263 LICENSE NUMBER DPR-22

Dear Dr Morris

Please consider this letter to be a supplement to the one forwarded to you on October 29, 1971 regarding Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant activities. The writer is new to the power supply function at Northern States Power Company, and we hope to bring a fresh management philosophy and new nuclear operating concepts to this Company. We wish to thank you for making available the substantial group of individuals from your organization on November 2, 1971, in response to our request for a meeting to clarify further the AEC inquiries discussed in this exchange of correspondence. The discussion was very helpful to our representatives.

Obviously, anything I might do at this time must remain very flexible, but indicatively the formation of a nuclear technical support section for the various nuclear activities at NSP is a very desirable order of business. Effective immediately, Mr L O Mayer is promoted to Director of Nuclear Support Services, and he has been instructed to form a highly-qualified support group which will provide staff services for nuclear engineering, nuclear operations and safety, and AEC communications related to plant operations. Mr Mayer has been directed to structure and man this organization as quickly as possible. It is not intended that these listed functions be all encompassing or exclusively the prerogative of the support group, and with experience the contour and structure of the group are expected to change. With the availability of this support, the operating forces will be able to direct their full attention to the operating routine. Mr Mayer and his group will report directly to me and not through the Vice President - Power Production and System Operation as at present. We expect to forward more specifics concerning this technical support unit by November 22, 1971.

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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

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November 5, 1971

Dr Peter A Morris

I intend to review the recommendations of our nuclear experienced personnel in the operating and engineering groups and those of our consultants to form a more detailed basis for the structure, functioning, and personnel requirements for the Nuclear Support Group.

With reference to the technical discussions in your October 18, 1971 letter, we have initiated the following actions. We have contacted the reactor manufacturer, of course, in regard to the steam line flow restrictor design and pressure drop response. They report that their testing of a similar flow restrictor has been completed. Their representatives have reiterated that, as a result of these tests, they can explain the behavior of the sensors and have information to support the reproducibility of the differential pressure indications, even under transient conditions. Formal issuance of a report cannot be expected from the manufacturer for five to six weeks. To expedite presentation of the information supporting our position concerning the viable operation at the 113 percent rated flow level, we propose that a group of individuals from NSP and the reactor manufacturer meet with DRL representatives at the earliest possible date to present the flow test findings verbally and to review the reported information on the design. We will be in contact with your organization to coordinate the details of such a meeting.

Our Engineering Department has been urged to accelerate the development of a practicable method for resolving the flow disturbance effects on the HPCI system steam line elbow taps. Our letter of November 22, 1971 will discuss this matter further. We have also asked them to investigate practicable means, to supplement the steps already taken, to prevent the loss of the loop seal in the off-gas line.

The Monticello Plant staff is finalizing additional operating procedures for the review and documentation of the investigation and causes of plant trips or unexpected load drops before return to normal load levels.

Each of these items will be given additional management attention concurrent with our development and implementation of the Nuclear Support Group. Mr Mayer will keep your group informed of the progress on these projects.

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

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November 5, 1971

Dr Peter A Morris

At our upcoming meeting, we hope that there might be an opportunity to discuss the improvement of communications between NSP and AEC. We will be proposing some changes in the principal areas of contact between our two organizations.

I would hope that any future response which may be elicited because of this letter may await a more fully outlined scope and content of our expanded managerial support and philosophy that will pertain to nuclear operations at NSP.

Yours very truly



Wade Larkin
Group Vice President -
Power Supply