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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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50-263

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TO:
Mr. Victor Stello

FROM:
Northern States Power Company
Minneapolis, Minnesota
L. O. Mayer

DATE OF DOCUMENT
10/12/77

DATE RECEIVED
10/17/77

LETTER
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DESCRIPTION

Concerns previously submitted license Amend request to revise tech specs to permit containment integrated leak rate tests to be terminated in less than 24 hours.....

ENCLOSURE

PLANT NAME: Monticello
RJL 10/17/77 (2-P)

40 ENCL *

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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401



October 12, 1977

Mr Victor Stello, Director
Division of Operating Reactors
c/o Distribution Services Branch, DDC, ADM
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr Stello:

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

Request for Reconsideration of Decision
to Defer Review of Monticello License Amendment Request
dated September 2, 1977

On September 2, 1977 Northern States Power Company submitted a License Amendment Request to revise the Monticello Technical Specifications to permit containment integrated leak rate tests to be terminated in less than 24 hours. Because of improved instrumentation, testing techniques, and the use of a small computer to perform leakage and error analysis rapidly, we believe a valid containment integrated leakage rate test can be successfully completed in less than 24 hours. Our License Amendment Request contained a description of our proposed test procedure, instrumentation, and computational methods.

In a letter dated September 21, 1977 from D K Davis, Acting Chief, Operating Reactors Branch #2, USNRC we were informed that an in-depth generic review of this issue is being undertaken by the Commission Staff and that our request would not be considered in time for the containment leakage test schedule near the end of the current refueling outage.

Approval of our September 2, 1977 request is important to us since it would allow us to reduce the length of the current refueling outage by approximately 18 hours. This would result in a savings of \$73,000 in replacement energy costs.

We ask that you review the position taken in Mr Davis's letter of September 21, 1977 and act on our submittal based on its own merits. If there are unanswered questions which do not allow the Staff to complete their review of our request, permit us to address them either in writing or at a meeting with you. Discussions with our licensing project manager have indicated that some of the Staff's concerns with deleting the 24-hour test requirement are associated with the effects of outside diurnal changes on the leak rate calculations. These concerns are not applicable to the Monticello containment design which provides for insulation of the containment vessel from these changes.

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NORTHON STATES POWER COMPANY

Mr Victor Stello

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October 12, 1977

Contact us if we can be of assistance in any way in expediting review of this matter. The integrated leak rate test is now scheduled for November 8, 1977.

Yours very truly,



L O Mayer, PE
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/DMM/deh

cc: J G Keppler
G Charnoff
MPCA

Attn: J W Ferman