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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

December 21, 1978

Mr. Gaston Fiorelli, Chief
Reactor Operations and Nuclear
Support Branch
Region III
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Fiorelli:

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

Your letter of December 12, 1978, 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:

Technical Specification 6.5 states in part that: "Detailed written procedures, including the applicable check-off and instructions, covering areas listed below shall be prepared and followed." Section 6.5.c.3 states: "Preventive or corrective maintenance of plant equipment and systems that could have an effect on nuclear safety."

Paragraph 6.1.1 of 4 ACD-3.6 requires a Work Request Authorization to be used for all work with certain listed exceptions, (of which this is not one).

Contrary to the above, these requirements were not complied with on May 25, 1978, June 3, 1978, and June 4, 1978, when electrical circuit breaker 52-304 was removed from service without a Work Request Authorization.

The work on breaker 52-304 conducted on June 3 and June 4, 1978, was performed in accordance with Work Request Authorizations 78-805 and 78-825. The stated infraction is therefore incorrect for those instances.

On May 25, 1978, the breaker tripped for no apparent reason. As part of the followup action the breaker was replaced. The breaker replacement was completed while an atmosphere of urgency still existed, however, we agree that a Work Request Authorization could and should have been prepared. This infraction has been discussed with the involved personnel and will be further discussed during the annual Q.A. Training session for plant personnel. This training is scheduled to be completed May 10, 1978. It is believed that this action will minimize the potential for similar occurrences in the future.

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Mr. G. Fiorelli

December 21, 1978

- 2 -

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
& System Operation

cc: Mr. G. Charnoff
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