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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

March 28, 1978

REGULATORY DIVISION
TELECOPIED TO
MR R(SNAIDER)
ON MARCH 28, 1978

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

Reporting Requirements Associated With HDFSS

This letter is written to document recent discussions with Mr R Snaider, the NRC Project Manager for the Monticello High Density Fuel Storage System (HDFSS).

Members of the NRC Staff have suggested that there be a requirement for additional criticality analysis of the HDFSS for storing fuel having a greater weight of uranium 235 per unit of axial length than assumed in the current analysis. In a January 26, 1978 meeting with the Staff, Northern States Power Company and the General Electric Company, supplier of Monticello fuel and the HDFSS, questioned whether the fuel loading is an appropriate parameter to use rather than the effective multiplication factor. Generic discussions are in progress to resolve this issue.

In order to expedite your action on our September 12, 1977 License Amendment Request and thereby avoid delays in the HDFSS installation, we are making two commitments. We will submit to you a revised spent fuel pool criticality analysis prior to inserting any fuel having greater than 15.2 grams of uranium 235 per axial centimeter averaged across the fuel assembly. Should the on-going discussions on this matter conclude that Technical Specifications are appropriate, we will accept a specification to that effect.

L. O. Mayer

L O Mayer, PE
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/MHV/deh

cc: J G Keppler
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