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Docket No. 50-263

MARCH 22 1978

Northern States Power Company
 ATTN: Mr. L. O. Mayer, Manager
 Nuclear Support Services
 414 Nicollet Mall - 8th Floor
 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a Notice of Granting an Exemption from the Requirements of General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis", of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant which has been filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

George Lear, Chief
 Operating Reactors Branch #3
 Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
 Exemption

cc w/enclosures:
 See next page

OFFICE >	ORB #3	ORB #3	ORB #3			
SURNAME >	SSheppard:m	f RBevan	GLear			
DATE >	3/16/78	3/22/78	3/22/78			

cc w/enclosures:

Gerald Charnoff, Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and
Trowbridge
1800 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Arthur Renquist, Esquire
Vice President - Law
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Mr. L. R. Eliason
Plant Manager
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company
Monticello, Minnesota 55362

Russell J. Hatling, Chairman
Minnesota Environmental Control
Citizens Association (MECCA)
Energy Task Force
144 Melbourne Avenue, S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Mr. Kenneth Dzugan
Environmental Planning Consultant
Office of City Planner
Grace Building
421 Wabasha Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Sandra S. Gardebring
Executive Director
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
1935 W. County Road B2
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

Mr. Steve Gadler
2120 Carter Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

Anthony Z. Roisman
Natural Resources Defense Council
917 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20555

The Environmental Conservation Library
Minneapolis Public Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

State Department of Health
ATTN: Secretary & Executive Officer
University Campus
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

Mr. D. S. Douglas, Auditor
Wright County Board of Commissioners
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313

Chief, Energy Systems Analyses
Branch (AW-459)
Office of Radiation Programs
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Room 645, East Tower
401 M Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20460

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Activities Branch
Region V Office
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Robert M. Lazo, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dr. Richard F. Cole
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-263

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

NOTICE OF GRANTING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE
REQUIREMENTS OF GENERAL DESIGN CRITERION 50,
"CONTAINMENT DESIGN BASIS", OF APPENDIX A
TO 10 CFR PART 50

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (The Commission) has granted an exemption from the requirements of General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis", of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 to Northern States Power Company (the Licensee). This exemption relates to the demonstrated safety margin of the Mark I containment system for Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant for recently identified hydrodynamic suppression pool loads associated with a postulated design basis loss of coolant accident and provides for operation under the conditions specified in the NRC staff's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report" and under any resulting Technical Specification requirements. To this extent, this exemption encompasses any related requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.55(a), and General Design Criterion 1. This exemption is effective as of the date of its issuance.

The Commission has evaluated the demonstrated safety margin of the containment system for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant under present

conditions and has concluded that sufficient margin exists to preclude undue risk to the health and safety of the public. This evaluation is documented in the staff's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report," NUREG-0408, December 1977.

This exemption is granted for an interim period of approximately two years while a more detailed review is conducted. At the conclusion of this review, the design safety margin of the containment system for the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant will be restored to that which was originally intended at the time Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant was licensed for operation. The basis for this exemption is set forth in the letter to the licensee granting the exemption, dated February 28, 1978.

The Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR Section 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

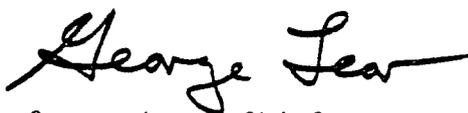
For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the Commission's letter to the licensee dated February 28, 1978, and (2) the Commission's

"Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report," NUREG-0408, December 1977.

These items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. and at the Environmental Conservation Library, Minneapolis Public Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401. A copy of item (1) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Operating Reactors. A copy of item (2) may be obtained upon request addressed to the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 22nd day of March 1978.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Lear". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

George Lear, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors