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 FACIL: 50-263 Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Northern States  
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 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director

SUBJECT: Advises that evaluation of Task A-31, "RHR Shutdown Requirements" will be completed by 810415. Facility has been reviewed for safe shutdown capability as part of fire protection review program.

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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

October 15, 1980

Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

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

Resolution of Task A-31 "RHR Shutdown Requirements"

One of the "Unresolved Safety Issues Relating to Nuclear Power Plants" indentified by the NRC Staff in their Annual Reports to Congress relates to the safe cold shutdown of a plant following an incident not related to a loss of coolant accident. Regulatory Guide 1.139 has been issued for comment by the Staff in response to this concern. This Regulatory Guide requires plants applying for construction permits after January 1, 1978 to have the capability to proceed from full power operation to cold shutdown in less than 36 hours using only safety-grade systems, either on or off-site power, and with the assumption of a single failure.

Guidance on resolution of this issue for plants whose construction permit application was made prior to January 1, 1978 has not yet been issued by the Staff and therefore a detailed comparison of the Monticello facility to the requirements of Regulatory Guide 1.139 has not been completed. In an effort to resolve this issue for the Monticello Full Term Operating License proceedings, however, we will undertake this evaluation and provide the results to the NRC Staff for their review. A preliminary estimate of the effort required to perform this evaluation indicates that a completion date of April 15, 1981 can be met.

It should be noted that the Monticello facility has been reviewed for safe shutdown capability as part of the current fire protection review program. This evaluation assumed the use of non-safeguards grade equipment in some instances. Following the completion of a small number of plant modifications required by the Fire Protection Safety Evaluation Report, issued by the NRC Staff on August 29, 1979, the plant will have the capability to go to cold shutdown in less than 72 hours using on or off-site power. The maximum credible fire in any area of the plant was assumed in this evaluation. This assumption is equivalent to multiple single failures in many cases.

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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

Director NRR

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October 15, 1980

Please contact us if you have any questions related to our proposed plans for resolving this issue.

*L O Mayer*

L O Mayer, PE  
Manager of Nuclear Support Services

LOM/DMM/bd

cc: J G Keppler  
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NRC Resident Inspector