

MAR 21 1991

Docket Nos. 50-263, 50-282
and 50-306

Mr. Leon R. Eliason
Vice President, Nuclear Generation
Northern States Power Company
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Eliason

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL EVENTS WHILE SHUTDOWN

The NRC has just issued Information Notice 91-22, "Four Plant Outage Events Involving Loss of AC Power or Coolant Spills," which addresses recent events that occurred during shutdown operations.

The chief purpose of this information notice is to notify each licensee that the high rate of precursor events to loss of decay heat removal during shutdown is a source of concern to the NRC. All of the events discussed in this information notice occurred during a one-week period in March 1991. Because of the potential for loss of a critical safety function in these and similar events, I believe a high level of management attention is required in the planning, coordination, and execution of shutdown operations.

While this information notice does not require specific licensee action or response, I urge you to give this important matter your personal attention.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Thomas E. Murley

Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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~~DO NOT~~
~~TMURLEY~~
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "T. Murley", is written over the typed name of Thomas E. Murley.

Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. Leon R. Eliason
Northern States Power Company

cc:

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Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
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