

NRC Central File  
OELD FF (2)  
LPDR  
Shapar/Engelhardt  
Grossman/Scinto  
SHLewis/Chron (2)  
R. Bevan, 338 Phil.  
SBajwa, P-522

HSmith, 314 Phil.  
DVassallo, 110 Phil.  
EREis  
BABerson

August 7, 1978

8/7/78

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

Dr. Richard F. Cole  
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Dr. Walter H. Jordan  
881 West Outer Drive  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

In the Matter of  
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
(Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit 1)  
Docket No. 50-263

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you of a significant pipe crack recently discovered at the Duane Arnold plant. Although that facility, like Monticello, is a BWR, the problem encountered there appears to be specific to Duane Arnold in that its design differs from Monticello in important respects and it is strongly suspected that previous welding repairs made to correct machining errors contributed to the pipe crack. No such cracks have been discovered at Monticello.

Recently some foreign BWR's have also experienced cracks in recirculation riser pipes. Domestic BWR's, including Monticello, have been inspected for indications of such cracks and none have been discovered.

Sincerely,

SL

Stephen H. Lewis  
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: Edward Luton, Esq.  
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Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Board Panel  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Appeal Board Panel

Docketing and Service Section		SHLELD	OELD		
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