



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE ROAD, SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 4, 2012

Mr. Mark Schimmel
Site Vice President
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER - MONTICELLO NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT**

Dear Mr. Schimmel:

On August 8, 2012, the NRC completed its mid-cycle performance review of Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant. The NRC reviewed the most recent quarterly performance indicators (PIs) in addition to inspection results and enforcement actions from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. This letter informs you of the NRC's assessment of your facility during this period and its plans for future inspections at your facility. The assessment reflects the integration of the Security Cornerstone into Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program."

The NRC determined the performance at Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant during the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix, because all inspection findings had very low (i.e., green) safety significance, and all PIs indicated that your performance was within the nominal, expected range (i.e., green). Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct ROP baseline inspections at your facility.

The NRC also plans to conduct non-routine inspections and temporary instructions at your facility, including: Inspection Procedure (IP) 71111.18, "Plant Modifications"; IP 71152, "Problem Identification and Resolution"; Temporary Instruction (TI) 2515/182, "Review of Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping and Tanks (Phase 2)"; TI 2515/187, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns"; and TI 2515/188, "Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Seismic Walkdowns."

The enclosed inspection plan lists the inspections scheduled through December 31, 2013. Routine inspections performed by resident inspectors are not included in the inspection plan. The inspections listed during the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review. The NRC provides the inspection plan to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues. The NRC will contact you as soon as possible to discuss changes to the inspection plan should circumstances warrant any changes. This inspection plan does not include security-related inspections, which will be sent via separate, non-publicly available correspondence.

M. Schimmel

-2-

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System (PARS) component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access And Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please contact me at (630) 829-9628 with any questions you have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kenneth Riemer, Chief
Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-263
License No. DPR-22

Enclosure: Inspection Plan

cc w/encl: Distribution via ListServ

M. Schimmel

-2-

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Letter to M. Schimmel from K. Riemer dated September 4, 2012

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE ASSESSMENT LETTER - MONTICELLO NUCLEAR
GENERATING PLANT

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Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
		TI-187 - TI-187 FLOODING WALKDOWN		2
07/01/2012	12/30/2012	IP 2515/187	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	
		TI-188 - TI-188 SEISMIC WALKDOWN		2
07/02/2012	12/31/2012	IP 2515/187	Inspection of Near-Term Task Force Recommendation 2.3 Flooding Walkdowns	
		BI PI&R - BIENNIAL PI&R INSPECTION		5
10/01/2012	10/19/2012	IP 71152B	Problem Identification and Resolution	
		BI OLRQ - REQUALIFICATION PROGRAM INSPECTION		1
10/08/2012	10/12/2012	IP 7111111A	Licensed Operator Requalification Program - Annual Review	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
10/22/2012	10/26/2012	IP 71124.02	Occupational ALARA Planning and Controls	
		STRIKE - STRIKE CONTINGENCY - OP/MAINT/RP/PRC/PLN		2
12/01/2012	12/31/2012	IP 92709	Licensee Strike Contingency Plans	
		OL PREP - MONTICELLO INIT PREP 01/2013		3
01/07/2013	01/11/2013	W90275	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2013 JANUARY - MONT	
		OL EXAM - MONTICELLO INIT EXAM 01/2013		3
01/28/2013	02/08/2013	W90275	OL - INITIAL EXAM - 2013 JANUARY - MONT	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
03/04/2013	03/08/2013	IP 71124.03	In-Plant Airborne Radioactivity Control and Mitigation	
03/04/2013	03/08/2013	IP 71124.04	Occupational Dose Assessment	
		ISI INSP - ISI BASELINE INSPECTION		1
03/25/2013	04/05/2013	IP 7111108G	Inservice Inspection Activities - BWR	
		ISFSI - ISFSI INSPECTION - SCHEDULE DEPENDENT		2
05/01/2013	08/31/2013	IP 60855.1	Operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation at Operating Plants	
		BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION		1
05/06/2013	05/10/2013	IP 71124.01	Radiological Hazard Assessment and Exposure Controls	
		BI EPX - EP EXERCISE INSPECTION / PI VERIFICATION		2
07/22/2013	07/26/2013	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation	
07/22/2013	07/26/2013	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification	
		TI 182 - TI 182 BURIED PIPING PHASE 2		2
07/22/2013	07/26/2013	IP 2515/182	Review of the Implementation of the Industry Initiative to Control Degradation of Underground Piping	
		BI HS - TRIENNIAL HEAT SINK INSPECTION		2
08/05/2013	08/09/2013	IP 7111107T	Heat Sink Performance	

Monticello
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2012 - 12/31/2013

Planned Dates		Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site
Start	End			
BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION				
08/12/2013	08/16/2013	IP 71124.07	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program	1
08/12/2013	08/16/2013	IP 71151-BI01	Reactor Coolant System Activity	
08/12/2013	08/16/2013	IP 71151-OR01	Occupational Exposure Control Effectiveness	
08/12/2013	08/16/2013	IP 71151-PR01	RETS/ODCM Radiological Effluent	
BI RP - RADIATION PROTECTION BASELINE INSPECTION				
09/09/2013	09/13/2013	IP 71124.08	Radioactive Solid Waste Processing and Radioactive Material Handling, Storage, and Transportation	1
BI MODS - TRIENNIAL PERM MODS/50.59				
11/04/2013	11/22/2013	IP 7111117T	Evaluations of Changes, Tests, or Experiments and Permanent Plant Modifications	1
BI OLRQ - BIENNIAL REQUAL PROGRAM INSPECTION				
10/07/2013	10/11/2013	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification Program	2