



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

January 16, 2015

Ms. Karen Fili
Site Vice President
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Northern States Power Company, Minnesota
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362-9637

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
CONFIRMATION OF INITIAL LICENSE EXAMINATION

Dear Ms. Fili:

In a telephone conversation on January 14, 2015, between Mr. T. Shortell, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant Training Manager, and Mr. H. Peterson, Operations Branch Chief, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Region III, arrangements were made to administration of licensing examinations at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant during the weeks of June 1, 2015, and June 8, 2015. During the telephone conversation, Mr. Shortell requested the NRC reschedule the examination on-site validation from the week of April 27, 2015, to the week of March 30, 2015, to accommodate a station outage. We are able to accommodate the request and have rescheduled the on-site validation to the week of March 30, 2015.

As agreed during the telephone conversation, your staff will prepare the examinations based on the guidelines in Revision 9, Supplement 1, of NUREG-1021, "Operator Licensing Examination Standards for Power Reactors." The NRC's regional office will discuss with your staff any changes that might be necessary before the examinations are administered.

Due to the change in the on-site validation date, it will be necessary for your staff to provide the NRC with the operating test and written examination outlines by January 20, 2015. The proposed operating tests and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due by February 2, 2015. The proposed written examination and supporting reference materials identified in Attachment 3 to ES-201 will be due by April 2, 2015. Pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 55.40(b)(3), (10 CFR 55.40(b)(3)), an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall approve the outlines, examinations, and tests before they are submitted to the NRC for review and approval. All materials shall be complete and ready to use. We request that any personal, proprietary, sensitive unclassified, or safeguards information in your response be contained in a separate enclosure and appropriately marked. Any delay in receiving the required examination and reference materials, or the submittal of inadequate or incomplete materials, may cause the examinations to be rescheduled.

In order to conduct the requested written examinations and operating tests, it will be necessary for your staff to provide adequate space and accommodations in accordance with ES-402, and

to make the simulation facility available on the dates noted above. In accordance with ES-302, your staff should retain the original simulator performance data (e.g., system pressures, temperatures, and levels) generated during the dynamic operating tests until the examination results are final

Appendix E of NUREG-1021 contains a number of NRC policies and guidelines that will be in effect while the written examinations and operating tests are being administered.

Your staff should submit preliminary reactor operator and senior reactor operator license applications (e.g., Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval number 3150-0090), medical certifications (OMB approval number 3150-0024), and waiver requests (if any, OMB approval number 3150-0090) at least 30 days before the first examination date, so as to ensure a timely NRC review and evaluation process. If the applications are not received at least 30 days before the examination date, a postponement may be necessary. Signed applications certifying that all training has been completed should be submitted at least 14 days before the first examination date.

This letter contains information collections that are subject to the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995* (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). These information collections were approved by the Office of Management and Budget, approval number 3150-0018. The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 500 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of these information collections, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5 F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet electronic mail to INFOCOLLECTS@NRC.GOV; and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202, (3150-0018), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503.

The NRC may neither conduct nor sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC's Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of the 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).

K. Fili

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Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Mr. Shortell has been advised of the policies and guidelines referenced in this letter. If you have any questions regarding the NRC's examination procedures and guidelines, please contact Mr. D. McNeil at 630-829-9737, or myself at 630-829-9707.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Hironori Peterson, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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