



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 28, 2015

Mr. Peter A. Gardner
Site Vice President
Northern States Power Company - Minnesota
Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
2807 West County Road 75
Monticello, MN 55362

SUBJECT: MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT – REQUEST FOR
WITHHOLDING PROPRIETARY INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
(TAC NO. MF5002)

Dear Mr. Gardner:

By letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated October 3, 2014 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Package Accession No. ML14283A125), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, doing business as Xcel Energy, submitted a license amendment request application to revise the technical specifications and approve certain analytical methods to support operation in the expanded power-flow operating domain described as the Extended Flow Window (EFW) at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (Monticello).

Enclosure 15 (located at ADAMS Accession No. ML14283A123) of the October 3, 2014, application, included an affidavit executed by James F. Harrison, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC (GEH), requesting that information designated proprietary in the following document be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 2, Section 2.390.

- Attachment 1 of Enclosure 1, "Reactor Protection for EFW Operation (Proprietary)." The associated affidavit was executed on August 6, 2014.

The affidavit states that the information submitted should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by GEH's competitors without license from GEH constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies.
- b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product.

We have reviewed the GEH affidavit in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390 and, on the basis of the statements in the affidavit, have determined that the information sought to be withheld in the submittal contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure. Therefore, Attachment 1 to Enclosure 1, which is marked as proprietary,

will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

A non-proprietary version of Attachment 1 to Enclosure 1 is available in the NRC's Public Document Room and added to the NRC Library at ADAMS Accession No. ML14283A119.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-3049.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry A. Beltz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Terry A. Beltz, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch III-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-263

cc: Mr. James F. Harrison, Vice President
Regulatory Affairs
GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC
3901 Castle Hayne Road
Wilmington, NC 28401

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/RA/

Terry A. Beltz, Senior Project Manager
 Plant Licensing Branch III-1
 Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
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