



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION III
2443 WARRENVILLE RD. SUITE 210
LISLE, IL 60532-4352

September 2, 2015

EA-14-165

Mr. Peter A. Gardner
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 - NRC SUPPLEMENTAL
INSPECTION REPORT 05000263/2015407 AND ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP
LETTER**

Dear Mr. Gardner:

On July 21, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed a supplemental inspection at your Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant (MNGP). The enclosed report documents the results of this inspection, which were discussed during an exit meeting and regulatory performance meeting on July 21, 2014, with you and members of your staff. During this meeting, Mr. K. O'Brien and Mr. G. Hansen discussed the associated performance deficiency and corrective actions, which fulfills NRC policy for a regulatory performance meeting.

In accordance with the NRC Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) Action Matrix, this supplemental inspection was performed to follow up on a performance issue that was identified in the fourth quarter of 2014. The issue was previously documented and assessed in NRC Inspection Report (IR) 05000263/2014406 and NRC letter dated February 26, 2015. The NRC was informed of your readiness for the inspection on June 8, 2015.

The objectives of this supplemental inspection were to determine whether or not: (1) the root and contributing causes for the significant issue were understood; (2) the extent of condition and the extent of cause of the issue were identified; and (3) corrective actions were or will be sufficient to address and preclude repetition of the root and contributing causes.

After reviewing the MNGP's performance in addressing the Greater-Than-Green inspection finding that was the subject of this inspection, the NRC concluded your actions met the objectives. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance in Inspection Manual Chapter 0305, "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," the Greater-Than-Green finding will only be considered in assessing plant performance for a total of four quarters. As a result, the NRC determined the performance at the MNGP will transition to the Licensee Response Column of the ROP Action Matrix at the start of the fourth quarter of 2015, absent the identification of any additional significant performance deficiencies.

Enclosure contains Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information. When separated from the enclosure, this transmittal document is decontrolled.

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P. Gardner

-2-

No findings were identified during this inspection.

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).

However, the material enclosed herewith contains Security-Related Information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and its disclosure to unauthorized individuals could present a security vulnerability. Therefore, the material in the enclosure will not be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the PARS component of NRC's ADAMS. If you choose to provide a response and Security-Related Information is necessary to provide an acceptable response, please mark your entire response "Security-Related Information—Withhold from public disclosure under 10 CFR 2.390" in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(d)(1) and follow the instructions for withholding in 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1). In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390(b)(1)(ii), the NRC is waiving the affidavit requirements for your response.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brian J. Kemker, Acting Chief
Plant Support Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Nonpublic Enclosure:
IR 05000263/2015407 w/Attachment:
Supplemental Information

cc w/encl: N. Simonian, NSIR/DSO/DDSO/ST
E. Wharton, NSIR
T. Dimitriadis, RI
B. Desai, RII
C. Pederson, RIII
D. Roberts, RIII
M. Haire, RIV

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Letter to Mr. Peter A. Gardner from Mr. Brian J. Kemker dated September 2, 2015.

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