



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

December 7, 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
(CAC NO. MF5002)

Dear Mr. Gardner:

By letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated September 29, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Package Accession No. ML15274A484), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, doing business as Xcel Energy, submitted a license amendment request (LAR) 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 (MNGP).

Enclosure 9 (located at ADAMS Accession No. ML15274A476) of the September 29, 2015, submittal, included two AREVA affidavits executed by Alan B. Meginnis, Manager of Product Licensing, for AREVA Inc., requesting that information designated proprietary in the following documents be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 2, Section 2.390.

- Enclosure 5 provides a proprietary version of AREVA report ANP-3435P, Revision 0, "AREVA Responses to RAI-8 and RAI-32 from SRXB and SNPB on MNGP EFW LAR," dated August 2015. The associated affidavit was executed on August 31, 2015.
- Enclosure 7 provides a proprietary version of AREVA report ANP-3424P, Revision 1, "AREVA Responses to RAI from SCVB on MNGP EFW LAR," dated August 2015. The associated affidavit was executed on August 20, 2015.

The affidavits state that the information submitted in Enclosures 5 and 7 should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- a. Use of the information by a competitor would permit the competitor to significantly reduce its expenditures, in time or resources, to design, produce, or market a similar product or service.
- b. The information reveals certain distinguishing aspects of a process, methodology, or component, the exclusive use of which provides a competitive advantage for AREVA in product optimization or marketability.

- c. The information is vital to a competitive advantage held by AREVA, would be helpful to competitors to AREVA, and would likely cause substantial harm to the competitive position of AREVA.

We have reviewed the AREVA affidavits 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, Enclosures 5 and 7, which are 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.

Enclosures 6 and 8 contain non-proprietary versions of Enclosure 5 and 7, respectively, and have been placed in the NRC's Public Document Room and added to the NRC Library at ADAMS Accession Nos. ML15274A475 and ML15274A476.

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.

P. Gardner

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

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Terry A. Beltz in cursive, followed by the word "for" in a smaller font.

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. Alan B. Meginnis, Manager
Product Licensing
AREVA Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, WA 99354

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P. Gardner

- 3 -

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Sincerely,

/RA ADietrich for/

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

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