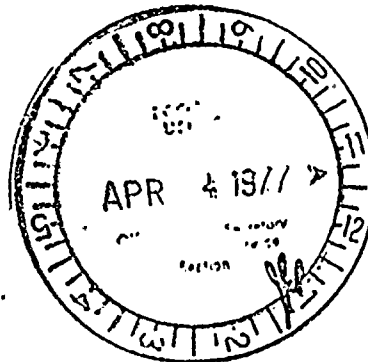




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April 1, 1977



Edward Luton, Esq.  
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Mr. Frederick J. Shon  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
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Dr. Oscar H. Paris  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
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Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Northern States Power Company  
(Prairie Island Nuclear Generating  
Plant, Units 1 and 2)  
Docket Nos. 50-282 and 50-306  
(Spent Fuel Pool Modification)

Gentlemen:

We have reviewed the March 29, 1977, letter of Northern States Power Company's counsel to the Board setting forth the parties' understanding as to the MPCA's contentions in the above-entitled matter.

In general we agree that the letter sets forth the substance of the parties' positions. However, the last paragraph states: "Prior to the prehearing conference, the parties will submit briefs to the Licensing Board on the disputed contentions." It was our understanding that the Applicant would submit a brief on its objections to specific contentions. It was not our understanding that the NRC staff or the MPCA would submit a brief prior to the prehearing conference.

h4.



Edward Luton, Esq., et al.

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Considering the fact that we will be unable to respond directly to the Applicant's arguments prior to receiving its brief; it is highly unlikely that time will permit the MPCA to file a brief on the disputed contentions prior to the pre-hearing conference. The MPCA intends to be prepared to respond to the Applicant's arguments at the prehearing conference but does not intend at this time to file a brief prior to the conference. However, should the Board decide at this conference that a brief from the MPCA would be appropriate, the MPCA would be happy to submit a brief thereafter.

Sincerely,



Jocelyn F. Olson  
Special Assistant  
Attorney General

JBO:ms

cc: Michael Grainey, Esq.  
Ellen Silberstein  
Gerald Charnoff  
Jay Silberg  
/ Docketing and Service Section



11-11-11