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June 1, 2018

L-MT-18-031
EA-14-193

ATTN: Director – Division of Nuclear Materials Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
2443 Warrenville Road
Suite 210
Lisle, IL 60532-4352

Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant
Docket No. 50-263
Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-22
Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Docket No. 72-58

Project Plan Progress Update toward Restoring 10 CFR 72 Compliance to Dry Shielded Canisters Designated 11 through 16

- References:
- 1) NRC letter to NSPM, “Confirmatory Order Related to NRC Reports No. 05000263/2015008; 07200058/2014001 and OI Report 3-2014-004; Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant”, dated December 21, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15355A459)
 - 2) NSPM letter to NRC, “Project Plan for Restoring 10 CFR 72 Compliance to Dry Shielded Canisters Designated 11 through 16”, dated December 12, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16347A295)
 - 3) NSPM letter to NRC, “Project Plan Progress Toward Restoring 10 CFR 72 Compliance to Dry Shielded Canisters Designated 11 through 16”, dated June 6, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17157B356)
 - 4) NSPM letter to NRC, “Exemption Request for Nonconforming Dye Penetrant Examinations of Dry Shielded Canisters (DSCs) 11 through 15”, dated October 18, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17296A205)
 - 5) NRC letter to NSPM, “First Request for Additional Information for Review of Exemption Request for Five Nonconforming Dry Shielded Canisters 11 through 15 (CAC No. 001028, Docket No. 72-58, EPID L-2017-LLE-0029)”, dated March 6, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18065A545)
 - 6) NSPM letter to NRC, “Response to Request for Additional Information Regarding Exemption Request for Nonconforming Dye Penetrant Examinations of Dry Shielded Canisters (DSCs) 11 through 15 (CAC No. 001028, EPID L-2017-LLE-0029)”, dated April 5, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18100A183)

- 7) NRC email to NSPM, “Monticello Exemption: NRC Clarification Questions on RAI #1 Responses”, dated May 1, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18121A250)
- 8) NRC Conversation Record, “Clarification Call with Xcel Energy (XE) on RAI #1 Response in Regard to Monticello Exemption Request for DSCs 11-15”, dated May 14, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18134A323)
- 9) NSPM letter to NRC, “Supplement to Exemption Request for Nonconforming Dye Penetrant Examinations of Dry Shielded Canisters (DSCs) 11 through 15 (CAC No. 001028, EPID L-2017-LLE-0029)”, dated May 31, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18151A870)

Pursuant to Confirmatory Order EA-14-193 (Reference 1), Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (NSPM), doing business as Xcel Energy, provided in Reference 2 a project plan for restoring 10 CFR 72 compliance to dry shielded canisters (DSCs) designated 11 through 16 at the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant.

Action 3 of the Confirmatory Order requires the following:

Within 180 days after submittal of the DSCs 11 through 16 project plan, Xcel Energy shall submit a letter to the Director, DNMS, Region III, regarding progress under the plan and any non-editorial changes to the plan. A letter providing a progress update and any non-editorial changes shall be provided every 360 calendar days thereafter to the Director, DNMS, Region III, until the plan is completed.

Reference 3 provided the initial “180 day” progress letter on the project plan. At the time the progress letter was submitted, NSPM anticipated submitting an exemption request for DSCs 11-15 “as early as September 2017.” Following input from multiple experts regarding structural, risk, and dose considerations for development of the exemption request, NSPM submitted the request on October 18, 2017 (Reference 4).

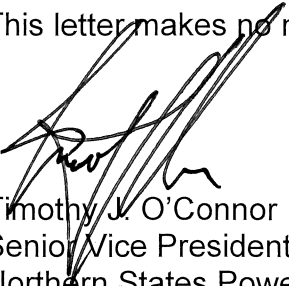
The exemption request is currently under review by NRC staff. NSPM received a Request for Additional Information (RAI) on March 6, 2018 (Reference 5), and provided a response to the RAI on April 5, 2018 (Reference 6). Subsequently, the NRC provided clarifying questions in regard to NSPM’s RAI response on May 1, 2018 (Reference 7). Those questions were discussed during a teleconference between NSPM and members of the NRC staff on May 10, 2018 (Reference 8). During the teleconference, NSPM agreed to supplement its RAI response in Reference 6. That supplement was provided on May 31, 2018 (Reference 9).

The project plan detailed in Reference 2 and updated by Reference 3 continues on track for restoring 10 CFR 72 compliance for DSCs 11-15 by March 2020, as identified in the project plan.

If additional information is required, please contact Mr. Shane Jurek at (612) 330-5788.

Summary of Commitments

This letter makes no new commitments and no revisions to existing commitments.



Timothy J. O'Connor
Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Northern States Power Company – Minnesota

cc: Document Control Desk, USNRC
Administrator, Region III, USNRC
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region III, USNRC
NRR Project Manager, Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant, USNRC
NMSS Project Manager, Spent Fuel Management, USNRC
Resident Inspector, Monticello, USNRC
Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, USNRC
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