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NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401

March 12, 1980

Mr. James G. Keppler
Director, Region III
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Keppler:

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT
Docket No. 50-263 License No. DPR-22
Response to IE Bulletin 80-03
Dated February 6, 1980

IE Bulletin 80-03 requested that power reactor facilities perform inspections of the charcoal adsorbers for loss of charcoal due to adsorber cell degradation. The only safeguards system at Monticello that contains charcoal adsorbers is the Standby Gas Treatment System. Information on the two charcoal adsorbers and the inspections performed as requested in Item 1 of the bulletin are given below.

System: Standby Gas Treatment System (2 Trains)
Adsorber Units: Quantity - 1 per train
Adsorber Cells: Quantity - 12 per unit
 Type - 11, Earneby-Cheney Type FC-1521
 1, Barneby-Cheney Type FC-2645 (test cell)
Weight - 94 lbs.
Design - Cells held in place by studs and retaining clips. Perforated screens secured to cells by rivets spaced 1/2 to 5/8 inches apart.

Inspections of the adsorber units were performed in accordance with Section 5 of ANSI N510-1975. The cells were in excellent condition with no signs of sagging, channeling or other degradation. There were no gaps between the perforated screens and casings. The visual inspection did reveal a minute amount of charcoal (approximately one tablespoon) on the floor of the exhaust side of each unit. These small amounts of charcoal are believed to have fallen through the screens during handling of removal of test cartridges and to have accumulated over a period of several years.

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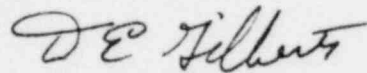
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Monticello performs in-place halogenated hydrocarbon tests on the charcoal adsorbers once each operating cycle. The penetrations into the adsorbers have always been less than the maximum specified in the Technical Specifications ($\leq 1\%$) and minute losses of charcoal have not affected the results.

No defective cells were identified, therefore no additional actions as described in Items 2 and 3 of the bulletin have been taken. Please contact Plant Management if you require additional information concerning our response.

Yours truly,



D. E. Gilberts
Vice President
Power Production

DEG:nk

cc: Mr. G. Charnoff
NRC Division of Fuel Facility and
Materials Safety Inspection
Washington, D. C.