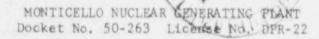
NORTHERN POWER COMPANY

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA BB401

May 5, 1976

Mr. Victor Stello, Director Division of Operating Reactors U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Stello:



Request for Exemption from Certain Requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix J, "Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water-Cooled Power Reactors"

Ref: (a) Letter from K.R. Goller, USNRC, to L.O. Maver, NSP, dated August 5, 1975

(b) 10CFR, Section 50.12

Reference (a) directed Northern States Power Company to identify planned actions and formulate a schedule to conform to 10CFR50, Appendix J. On September 19, 1975, NSP submitted a report which outlined a number of areas where Monticello plant design prohibits full compliance with the Regulation. The Monticello plant was designed and constructed several years before the final adoption of Appendix J.

We have carefully reviewed each area where Monticello cannot comply with Appendix J and have under consideration a number of modifications to permit testing in some areas to be accomplished in accordance with the Regulation.

There are also a number of areas where testing cannot be accomplished in accordance with the Regulation and where modifications to permit such testing do not provide any significant improvement in the effectiveness of the containment system or increase the protection now provided to the health and safety of the public. We are requesting exemption from the requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix J in accordance with reference (b) in these instances.

Attached are 3 originals and 37 conformed copies of a request for exemption from certain requirements of 10CFR50, Appendix J. We believe that approval

1484

NOR' ERN STATES POWER COL ANY Mr. Victor Stello May 5, 1976 of these exemptions would not be contrary to law, would not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest. Representatives of NSP are available to discuss this request with you in detail and resolve any specific questions which may arise from this request or any of the other related submittals we have made. Yours very truly, X.O. mayer L. O. Mayer, PE Manager, Nuclear Support Services LOM/DMM/deb attachment cc: J.G. Keppler G. Charnoff MPCA Attn: J.W. Ferman

cc: J.G. Keppler
G. Charnoff
MPCA
Attn: J.W. Ferman
MECCA
Attn: H.J. Vogel
City of St. Paul
Attn: D.L. Ficker
S.J. Gadler