



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

TELEPHONE
(312) 858-2660

September 13, 1972

Northern States Power Company
ATTN: Mr. Leo Wachter, Vice President
Power Production
419 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Docket No. 50-263

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of August 8, 1972, in response to our letter dated June 29, 1972, informing us of your plans to assure that valves important to nuclear safety do not have wall thicknesses below the minimum requirements specified by the applicable codes, standards, and procurement specifications.

The plans outlined in your letter, which you state are contingent upon investigation and development of certain measurement program factors, appear to be responsive to our concerns. We understand that you will complete the investigation and development activities identified in your August 8, 1972, letter and inform us of a detailed valve wall thickness verification program within 90 days, i.e., on, or before, November 8, 1972. On the basis of this time schedule, and the contents of your August 8, 1972, letter, we have no further questions at this time. With respect to development of your valve wall thickness verification program, it should be understood that forged valves need not be included in the program provided that: (1) documentation is available at the site to confirm that valve dimensions were checked after

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final machining of machined areas, and/or (2) valve drawings are available at the site to demonstrate that any internal machining operation could not have encroached upon the minimum wall thickness of the pressure-retaining boundary of the valve body.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Boyce H. Grier
Regional Director

bcc w/ltr dtd 8/8/72:

J. G. Keppler, RO
R. H. Engelkeh, RO
H. D. Thornburg, RO
P. A. Morris, RO
A. Giambusso, L
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PDR
Local PDR
NSIC
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