



Northern States Power Company

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401  
Telephone (612) 330-5500

August 11, 1982

R L Spessard, Director  
Division of Project and Resident Programs  
Region III  
U S Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT  
Docket No. 50-263 License No. D?R-22

Response to Item of Noncompliance

In response to your letter of July 12, 1982 which transmitted Inspection Report No. 50-263/82-03, the following is offered:

Violation

10 CFR 50.72(a)(8) requires each licensee of a nuclear power reactor to notify the NRC Operations Center as soon as possible and in all cases within one hour by telephone of the occurrence of any accidental, unplanned, or uncontrolled radioactive release.

Contrary to the above, an accidental radioactive release was determined at 11:00 p.m. on May 3, 1982, to have occurred earlier that day and the release was not reported to the NRC Operations Center until 8:00 a.m. on May 4, 1982.

Response

The event resulting in the unplanned radioactive release was reported to the Commission in writing on June 3, 1983 as Licensee Event Report 82-06. As noted in that report, the release totaled  $2.2 \times 10^{-3}$  curies using conservative calculational methods and resulted from a leaking RHR heat exchanger.

The event was not reported within one hour of verification that an unplanned release had occurred. We believe this was due to the fact that operations personnel were concentrating on identification and isolation of the leaking heat exchanger and the Technical Specification requirements for operability of this equipment. Because of the insignificant concentrations of radioactivity in the water released, it was not immediately obvious that this constituted an "unplanned release".

Section 50.72 does not provide threshold levels for reporting of accidental, unplanned, or uncontrolled radioactive releases. Therefore, even though the release constituted less than 1/1000 of the Technical Specification limit for permissible liquid releases, the event should have been reported in accordance with the regulation.

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To prevent recurrence, we will re-emphasize during operator retraining sessions the immediate reporting requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.72. We will specifically point out that unplanned releases of any magnitude require reporting within one hour of confirmation. Also, through discussions of this event we believe our personnel have now been sensitized to strict compliance with Section 50.72 and failures to meet the one-hour reporting requirement are not likely to reoccur. Existing plant directives are in full compliance with the one-hour reporting requirements of the Commission.

Please contact us if you have any questions concerning the actions planned to prevent recurrence of this violation.



C E Larson  
Director  
Nuclear Generation

CEL/bd

cc: G Charnoff  
C H Brown, NRC Resident Inspector

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY  
MONTICELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT

Docket No. 50-263

LETTER DATED AUGUST 11, 1982  
RESPONDING TO NRC LETTER DATED JULY 12, 1982  
Inspection Report No. 50-263/82-03

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, by this letter dated August 11, 1982 hereby submits, in response to the NRC letter dated July 12, 1982, our answer to Inspection Report No. 50-263/82-03.

This letter contains no restricted or other defense information.

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

By C E Larson  
C E Larson  
Director  
Nuclear Generation

On this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1982, before me a notary public in and for said County, personally appeared C E Larson, Director, Nuclear Generation and being first duly sworn acknowledged that he is authorized to execute this document on behalf of Northern States Power Company, that he knows the contents thereof and that to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, the statements made in it are true and that it is not interposed for delay.

Betty J. Dean

