

January 31, 1978

NOTE FOR JERRY NELSON, OGC

In connection with today's prehearing conference in the matter of Northern Power Company's application to expand its spent fuel storage capacity at the Monticello Nuclear Power Station, we inquired about the use of cameras in the U.S. District Court in St. Paul.

We were advised that Rule 7d applies and a copy is enclosed. It is not clear to us, however, whether this rule prohibits the use of cameras under any circumstances, or whether our policy might be applicable to NRC proceedings held in the court's facilities.

Accordingly, we have drafted a letter to Judge Devitt seeking clarification. If you agree, we think it would be useful for you to write to Judge Devitt since many of our proceedings have been held in the U.S. District Court in St. Paul and we would expect the same to be true in the future.

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Joseph J. Fouchard, Director
Office of Public Affairs

Enclosures

DRAFT

The Honorable Edward J. Devitt
Chief Judge
U.S. Court House
316 North Roberts
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Judge Devitt:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently decided that, on a trial basis, it will permit the use of television and still cameras by accredited news media--under specified conditions--during proceedings before its Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards and Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Boards. A copy of the Commission's "General Statement of Policy" is enclosed.

You will note that it will continue to be the practice of both the hearing and appeal boards to use Federal or State court rooms when these facilities are available and that the policy of these courts in regard to the use of cameras will be observed. In this connection, we have been advised that Rule 7d is applicable to the use of cameras in the U.S. District Court in St. Paul.

Since many of our past proceedings have been held in the court's facilities, and we would hope to use these same facilities in the future, it would be helpful to have your opinion as to whether our camera policy would be applied to our proceedings or whether Rule 7d prohibits the use of cameras under any circumstances. We, of course, will abide by your ruling in this matter.

Sincerely,

General Counsel

Enclosure

OFFICE →	PA <i>(h)</i>	PA <i>(f)</i>				
SURNAME →	FIngram;jd	JFouchard				
DATE →	1/31/78	2/1/78				